Catalysis by Heteropoly Acids and Multicomponent Polyoxometalates in Liquid-Phase Reactions

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Catalysis by heteropoly acids (HPAs) and related polyoxometalate compounds is a field of increasing importance. i⁻¹⁶ HPAs have several advantages as catalysts which make them economically and environmentally attractive. On the one hand, HPAs have



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a very strong, approaching the superacid region. Brönsted acidity; on the other, they are efficient oxidants, exhibiting fast reversible multielectron redox transformations under rather mild conditions. Their acid-base and redox properties can be varied over a wide range by changing the chemical composition. Solid HPAs possess a discrete ionic structure, comprising fairly mobile basic structural unitsheteropolyanions and countercations (H+, H3O+, H₅O₂+, etc.)—unlike the network structure of, e.g., zeolites and metal oxides. This unique structure manifests itself to exhibit an extremely high proton mobility and a "pseudoliquid phase" 8 (see later), while heteropolyanions can stabilize cationic organic intermediates. 11 On top of that, HPAs have a very high solubility in polar solvents and fairly high thermal stability in the solid state. These properties render HPAs potentially promising acid, redox, and bifunctional catalysts in homogeneous as well as in heterogeneous systems. HPAs are widely used as model systems for fundamental research, providing

unique opportunities for mechanistic studies on the molecular level. At the same time, they become increasingly important for applied catalysis. Most of the pioneering work has been done since the 1970s mainly by Japanese and Russian reasearch groups. 1-241 In the last two decades, the broad utility of HPA acid and oxidation catalysis has been demonstrated in a wide variety of synthetically useful selective transformations of organic substances. 2-16 Several new industrial processes based on HPA catalysis, such as oxidation of methacrolein, hydration of defins (propene and butenes), polymerization of tetrahydrofuran, etc., have been developed and commercialized. 19

The purpose of this review is to discuss the scope and limitations of HPAs as acid and oxidation catalysts for liquid-phase organic reactions in homogeneous and heterogeneous systems. Such topics as HPA acid and redox properties, catalyst preparation and characterization, and mechanistic aspects of HPA catalysis are also surveyed. The review mainly covers the recent literature published during the past five years, although, for a more comprehensive discussion, some earlier works are also included. More detailed information about the preparation of HPAs and their physicochemical properties can be found in monographs and reviews 14.17-23 and other articles in this issue. A series of reviews, discussing various aspects of HPA catalysis have been published. 1-16

II. Acid Catalysis by Heteropoly Acids

A. HPA Catalysts

1. Structure

Molecular Structure. HPAs are complex proton adds that incorporate polyocometalate anions (heteropolyanions) having metal—oxygen octahedra as the basic structural units. $^{1-24}$ He first characterized and the best known of these is the Keggin heteropolyanion typically represented by the formula $M_{12}O_{42}e^{-i\alpha}$ where X is the central atom ($S^{(4^n)}$, P^{2^n} , etc.), x is its oxidation state, and M is the metal ion ($N(b^{2^n}c^{-1}W^{2^n})$. The N^{2^n} ions can be substituted by many other metal ions, e.g., N^{2^n} , C^{2^n} , $Z^{3^{2^n}}$, etc. The Keggin anion is composed of a central tetrahedron XO_4 surrounded by 12 edge- and corner-sharing metal—oxygen octahedra MO_6 (Figure 1).²⁴ The oxtahedra are arranged in four M_2O_1 groups. Each group is formed by three oxtahedra sharing edges and



Figure 1. The Kegin structure of the XM₁₂O₄₀x⁻⁸ anion (α-isomer):²⁴ terminal (O¹), edge-bridging (O²), and corner-bridging (O³) oxygen atoms.

$$\mathbf{W} = \mathbf{O} \cdots \mathbf{H}$$
 $\mathbf{O} \cdots \mathbf{H}^{+} \cdots \mathbf{O}$
 $\mathbf{H} \cdots \mathbf{W} = \mathbf{O}$

Figure 2. The schematic structure of bulk proton sites in $H_2PW_{12}O_{40}\text{-}6H_2O.^{28}$

having a common oxygen atom which is also shared with the central tetrahedron XO₂. Among a wide variety of HPAs, the Keggin's are the most stable and more easily available; these are the most important for catalysis. In this review HPAs are understood as the Keggin acids, unless otherwise stated. Generally, their formulas will be abbreviated to XM, e.g., PW and SiW for $H_2^2 W l_2 O_{10}$ and $H_2 SiW_2 O_{13}$, respectively. Other pdyoxometalates—e.g., those of the Dawson structure, $X_2 M l_3 O_{12} C^{2-18}$, Keggin and Dawson lacunary anions, $XM_1 l_3 O_{12}^{2-18}$ and $X_3 M_1 N_{02}^{2-18} C^{2-18}$ and transition metal complexes thereof 14,10 —are also used as catalysts.

Generally, solid HPAs form ionic crystals composed of heteropolyanions, countercations (H*, H₂O*, H_OZ*, etc.) and hydration water. The crystal structure of HPAs depends on the amount of hydration water. The this water can be easily removed on heating, whereby the acid strength is increased due to the dehydration of protons. This is a reversible process accompanied by changing the volume of crystal cell. Unlike the rigid network structure of zedites, in HPA crystal the Keggin anions are quite mobile. Not only water but also a variety of polar organic molecules can enter and leave HPA crystal. Such structural flexibility is important when using HPA as a heterogeneous catalyst (see below).^{8,11}

Proton Structure. HPAs are strong Brönsted acids.24811 Structural characterization of the HPA proton sites is an important step toward understanding the catalytic activity. 4825 Keggin anions have three types of outer oxygen atoms as potential protonation centers: terminal oxygens M=O and two types of bridging oxygens M-O-M, edge sharing and corner sharing (Figure 1). Bond length-bond strength correlations26 as well as 17O nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) data27 indicate that in the free polyanions (e.g., V₁₀O₂₈6-) in solution, the bridging oxygen atoms, having a higher electron density than the terminal oxygen atoms, are protonated. Hypothetically, in the free Keggin anion in the gas phase, edgebridging M-O-M oxygens may be assumed to be the predominant protonation sites. In solid HPAs, the protons take part in the formation of the HPA crystal structure, linking the neighboring heteropolyanions. In this case the more accessible terminal oxygens can be protonated. Thus, from single-crystal X-ray and neutron diffraction data,28 the crystal structure of PW hexahydrate is formed by packing heteropolyanions into a body-centered cubic structure. The bulk proton sites in PW hexahydrate are represented as diaquahydrogen ions, H5O2+, each of which links four neighboring heteropolyanions by forming hydrogen bonds with the terminal W=O oxygens (Figure 2). Note, however, that the protons cannot be found directly from X-ray data; their positions are localized on the basis of a sensible hydrogen-bonding scheme and the known geometry of the water molecule.

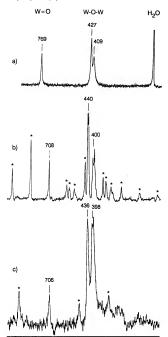


Figure 3. 170 NMR spectra for 170-enriched PW: (a) 0.12 MPW aqueous solution; and (b and c) magic angle spinning spectra for solid PW at a spinning rate of 6.8 and 11 kHz, respectively; positions of center bands are indicated; spinning side bands are asterisked.30

Direct evidence of the predominant protonation of the terminal oxygens in solid PW and SiW has been obtained by 170 NMR by comparison of solution and solid-state spectra for these HPAs.29-32 The resonance for the terminal oxygen in solid PW exhibits a large 60 ppm upfield shift compared to the aqueous solution spectrum, whereas the bridging oxygen resonances have practically the same positions in both spectra (Figure 3).²⁹⁻³¹ Since in aqueous solution PW is completely deprotonated (see below), this unambiguously identifies the terminal oxygens as the predominant protonation sites in solid HPA. The structure of proton sites in the dehydrated PW is



Figure 4. The schematic structure of bulk proton sites in dehydrated PW:30

shown in Figure 4. This structure is assumed to be directly formed from the proton structure of the PW hydrate upon dehydration. Stoichiometrically, each proton is shared by four equivalent terminal oxygens, belonging to four different heteropolyanions, like in PW hexahydrate. Interestingly, the same structure was suggested28 for the structurally similar HPA salts, e.g., Cs3PW12O40, in which the Cs+ ions each have four equivalent terminal oxygens as the closest neighbors.

2 Acid Properties

HPA in Solution. In solutions, the acid properties of HPAs are quite well documented in terms of dissociation constants and Hammett acidity function.24 HPAs have very high solubilities in polar solvents such as water, lower alcohols, ketones, ethers, esters, etc. On the other hand, they are insoluble in nonpolar solvents like, e.g., hydrocarbons. The dissociation constants of HPAs were measured in such solvents as H2O,33 Me2CO, EtOH, and AcOH.34 etc.; the Hammett acidity function was determined in H2O and H2O-AcOH, H2O-dioxane, H2O-EtOH, and H2O-Me2CO mixtures.35 The stability of HPAs toward hydrolysis in aqueous solution follows the order: SiW > PW > SiMo > PMo. 17,36

In aqueous solution, HPAs such as PW, SiW, and PMo are strong fully dissociated acids. 4 SiW12O404and PW12O403- anions remain deprotonated even after accepting two and three extra electrons, respectively, upon polarographic reduction in aqueous solution at pH 1.37 From 17O NMR data, 31 PW remains fully ionized in a 94:6 v /v AcOH-H2O solution, the solvated protons loosely bound to the anion as a whole rather than to a certain oxygen atom in the anion. HPAs in solution are stronger than the usual mineral acids such as H2SO4, HCl, HNO3, etc. (Table The strength of the Keggin HPAs depends weakly on their composition. Yet the tungsten acids are markedly stronger than molybdenum ones. The strongest acid in the Keggin series is PW.4 The acidity of HPA concentrated solutions in terms of the Hammett acidity function also weakly depends on their composition and is stronger than that of equimolar solutions of H2SO44

Although the acid strength and catalytic activity of Brönsted acids are best quantified in terms of their

Table 1. Dissociation Constants of Heteropoly Acids in Acetone at 25 °C 4

in necesone at 20 C			
acid	pK_1	pK_2	p <i>K</i> ₃
H ₃ PW ₁₂ O ₄₀ H ₄ PW ₁₁ VO ₃₀ H ₄ SiW ₁₂ O ₄₀ H ₄ SiW ₁₂ O ₄₀ H ₄ SiMo ₁₂ O ₄₀ H ₂ SO ₄ HCI	1.6 1.8 2.0 2.0 2.1 6.6 4.3	30 32 36 36 36 39	4.0 4.4 5.3 5.3 5.9
HNO ₃	9.4		

Table 2. Sorption of Different Substances onto PW at 25 °C 46

	sorption (molecules per Keggin unit)		
substance	irreversible*	total	
pyridine	60	9	
ammonia	32	4.3	
methanol	22	> 10	
isopropyl alcohol	63	> 10	
ethylene	0.03	0.04	
1-butene	0.2	0.25	
benzene	0.1	0.5	

^a The amount irreversibly retained after evacuation at 25 ^aC.

dissociation constants and Hammett acidity function, other characteristics, namely the hardness of the add or the softness of the corresponding base have also been used. These are the key parameters of the hard and soft acid—base theory related to the potarizabilities of the acids and bases and generally applied to Lewis acids and bases. According to Izumi et al., 35 Keggin anions can be characterized as having a very weak basicity and great softness. The order of softness of heteropolyanions in aqueous solution was estimated as follows: $SiN_{\rm LO}_{\rm AP} > SOE_{\rm LO}_{\rm AP} > NO_5 > NO_5$

The softness of heteropolyanions is assumed to play an important role in stabilizing organic intermediates ¹¹

Solid HPAs possess purely Brönsted acidity and are stronger than such conventional solid acids as $SIO_Z - AI_ZO_x$ H_PO_sIO_x and HX and HY zecities. And The acid strength of crystalline HPAs decreases in the series PW > SIW \geq PMo > SiMo which is identical to that in solutions (Table 1).48 Usually, relative catalytic activities of HPAs are consistent with this order both in homogeneous and in heterogeneous systems.48 Like other strong solid acids, HPAs are capable of generating carbocations from adsorbed defins and arenes.42

HPAs have a fairly high thermal stability. The Keggin-type PW, SiW, PMO, and SiMO decompose at 465, 445, 375, and 350 °C, respectively. The decomposition causes the loss of their acidity. However, thermally decomposed molybdenum HPAs become reconstructed under exposure to water vapor. 445 Under wet conditions, molybdenum HPAs can hence be used as solid acid catalysts in vaporphase reactions operated at relatively high temperatures. In the case of much less labile tungsten HPAs such reconstruction seems unlikely.

Misono et al. 812 demonstrated that crystalline HPAs in many respects behave like solutions. This is due to the fact that these solids have discrete and mobile ionic structures. Solid HPAs absorb a large amount of polar mdecules, e.g., alcohols, ethers, amines, etc., in the catalyst bulk, forming HPA solvates 67 (Table 2). Moreover, solid HPAs possess an extremely high proton mobility. It should be noted that proton conductivities of solids generally correlate with their acid—base catalytic activities. "The mechanism of the proton conductivity of solid HPAs has been discussed."

By virtue of the easy absorption, polar molecules undergo catalytic reactions not only on the surface. but also in the bulk of the crystalline HPA. Thus, toward polar substances, solid HPAs behave like highly concentrated solutions, i.e., nearly all the HPA protons, not only the surface proton sites, participate in the catalytic reaction. This phenomenon, unusual for heterogeneous acid catalysis, is designated by the term "pseudoliquid phase".8 Unlike polar molecules, nonpolar reactants (e.g., hydrocarbons) are incapable of being absorbed in the HPA bulk (Table 2). They interact only with the surface of the catalyst. The pseudoliquid behavior apparently brings about high catalytic activities for reactions of polar molecules at relatively low temperatures, i.e., when the sorption of the substrate in the catalyst bulk is rather high. Besides the activities, unique selectivities have been reported.8 On top of that, the uniformity of pseudoliguid phase makes it feasible to use spectroscopic techniques to study the catalytic process. 48

According to microcalorimetric data,49 the bulk proton sites in dehydrated PW are essentially uniform, which is not unexpected due to the pseudoliquid behavior of HPA. These are characterized by the differential heat of ammonia adsorption of 140-160 kJ/mol, which is almost the same as that for Hmordenite, one of the strongest acid zeolites. There is also a small amount (<3%) of stronger proton sites with the heat of ammonia adsorption above 170 kJ/ mol. These are probably surface proton sites localized at the bridging O atoms in the Keggin unit. Other microcalorimetric studies^{50,51} have examined the acid strengths of a number of HPAs by the sorption of NH3 after pretreatment of the solids under various conditions. An effect of activation conditions was observed in that a lower activation temperature resulted in a higher differential heat of scrption. The order of acid strengths of solid HPAs, as determined by microcalorimetry at a sorption temperature of 50 °C after pretreatment at 150 °C, is PW ≥ SiW >> PMo ≥ SiMo, which is in agreement with that found by temperature-programmed desorption (TPD).50

Solid PW and its acidic salt Cs2.5H0.5PW after pretreatment at 300-400 °C have been claimed to acquire superacid sites. 52-54 (By definition, 55 superacids are acids stronger than 100% H2SO4; they have the Hammett acidity function H_0 less than -12). Thus, Okuhara et al.⁵³ showed by titration with Hammett indicators that the calcined PW and $Cs_2 = H_0 = PW$ have the acid sites with $H_0 < -13.16$. However, the application of Hammett indicators to characterize the surface acidity of solid acids can be misleading because the surface acidity function H₀. in contrast to the solution H_0 , does not have an explicit physicochemical meaning (for a recent review, see ref 15). Another useful yet not sufficient criterion to identify superacids is based on their catalytic activity: superacids are capable of catalyzing the low-temperature (below 100 °C) skeletal isomerization of light alkanes.55 According to this criterion, neither PW nor Cs25H05PW can be regarded as superacids because they catalyze n-butane isomerization only at about 300 °C.54 Nowinska et al. 22 reported that bulk and SiO2 supported PW show a very low catalytic activity in the skeletal isomerization of n-hexane at 75 °C. Apparently, solid HPAs are to be considered as very strong, approaching the superacidity region, Brönsted acids.

3. Supported HPAs

Supported HPA catalysts are important for applications because bulk HPAs have a low specific surface (1-5 m² g⁻¹).^{2,4,8,11} A variety of methods have been used to characterize such catalysts, 8,11,15 multinuclear solid-state NMR being particularly useful probe of the state of HPA.56-62 The acidity and catalytic activity of supported HPAs depends on the type of the carrier, the HPA loading, conditions of pretreatment, etc. Acidic or neutral substances such as SiO263 active carbon,6465 acidic ion-exchange resin, 66 etc., are suitable as supports, the most often used being SiO2. Basic solids like MgO tend to decompose HPA. 48,67

HPA on Silica. SiO₂ is relatively inert toward HPAs, at least above a certain loading level, although some chemical interaction takes place between HPA and SiO2 (see below). The thermal stability of HPA on SiO2 seems to be comparable to or slightly lower than that of the parent HPA.868 On the other hand, a thermally decomposed Keggin structure on the silica surface may be reconstructed on exposure to water vapor. 45,69

¹H and ³¹P magic-angle spinning (MAS) NMR studies indicate a chemical interaction of PW with SiO₂,57,58,60,70 Impregnating SiO₂ with an aqueous solution of PW gives catalysts with, in general, two HPA species which were characterized by 31P MAS NMR: one at -15 ppm with intact Keggin structure (A) and the other at −14 ppm with a different structure (B) (Figure 5).^{60,70} The relative amount of species A and B depends on HPA loading, with A dominating. At higher loadings, 30-50%, A is practically the only one present on the SiO₂ surface: at lower loadings, both species exist, the amount of B increasing as the HPA loading decreases. In contrast, catalysts prepared by impregnation with a methanol solution of HPA contain exclusively Keggintype A over the whole range of PW loading. 70 Forms A and B were assumed to be bulk crystalline PW and the "interacting" species (SiOH2+)(H2PW12O40-), respectively.60 More recently evidence was obtained that B may be $H_6P_2W_{18}O_{62}$ or $H_6P_2W_{21}O_{71}$, formed from PW in the course of catalyst preparation. 70 The B species was more active than A in liquid-phase dealkylation of alkylphenols. 70 The ¹H MAS NMR studv⁵⁷ also shows the interaction of PW with silica and the formation of a new type of proton sites on the silica surface.

As shown by microcalorimetry, 49 when loading PW (20 wt %) on SiO2, the proton sites become weaker and less uniform. Only 20% of the total amount of proton sites remain as strong as in bulk PW. The rest has the differential heat of ammonia adsorption about 120 kJ/mol, approaching that for acid sites of HX and HY zeolites. Like for bulk HPA, the differential heat of NH3 adsorption on SiO> supported HPA strongly depends on the pretreatment temperature.51 According to the ammonia thermal desorp-

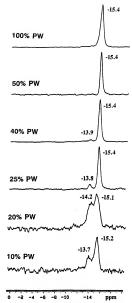


Figure 5. 31P MAS NMR spectra for PW and PWSiO2 at various PW loadings. 70

tion data,49 the acid strength of supported PW decreases in the series of carriers: SiO₂ > α-Al₂O₃ > activated carbon.

At low loadings, PW and SiW form finely dispersed species on the SiO2 surface; HPA crystal phase on silica (200–300 m² g⁻¹) is developed at HPÅ loading above 20 wt % ^{63,71} Various HPA forms were observed on the silica surface by transmission electron microscopy (TEM): discrete molecules, clusters 50 Å in size and large crystallites of 500 Å. Their relative amounts depend on the HPA loading.71

SiO₂-supported molybdenum HPAs, such as SiMo, PMo, and PMo₁₀V₂, retain the Keggin structure at high loadings but decompose at very low loadings due to their strong interactions with surface silanol groups. 45,68,72-74 A correlation was established between the catalytic behavior in the methanol oxidation. dehydration reaction and the state of SiMo and PMo on the silica surface, 68,72,74 At high loadings, supported HPAs behave similarly to bulk HPAs. In this case, acid catalysis predominates to yield dim-

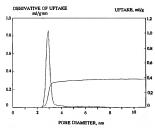


Figure 6. Pore size distribution for 40% PWMCM-41 (from $N_2\, physisorption).^{76}$

ethyl ether. In contrast, at low loadings, when HPA decomposes to MoO₃, losing the acidity, only redox catalysis is observed to give formaldehyde.

HPA on Mesoporous Molecular Sieve. Incorporation of HPA into zeolite pores to obtain shapeselective catalysts has long been a challenge. However, conventional zeolites are not suitable for this because their pores are too small to adsorb large (12 A) HPA molecules. Recently, PW supported on a novel mesoporous pure-silica molecular sieve MCM-41 (BET surface area 1200 m² g⁻¹, uniform pores 32 Å in size) was prepared 75,76 and characterized by nitrogen physisorption, XRD, Fourier-transform infrared spectroscopy (FT-IR), TEM, and 31P MAS NMR. 70,75 The PWMCM-41 compositions with PW loadings from 10 to 50 wt % have ~30 Å uniformly sized mesopores (Figure 6). HPA retains the Keggin structure on the MCM-41 surface at an HPA loading above 20 wt %; at lower loadings a partial decomposition of PW was observed, as in the case of amorphous SiO₂ ™ HPA forms finely dispersed species on the MCM-41 surface. No HPA crystal phase is seen at HPA loadings as high as 50 wt %. As shown by TEM, 70 the PW species are mainly located inside the MCM-41 pores rather than on the outer surface (Figure 7). PWMCM-41 exhibits a higher catalytic activity than H2SO4 or bulk PW and shows a shape selectivity in liquid-phase phenol alkylation.75 SiŴ/ MCM-41 has been characterized and tested in the esterification of acetic acid with n-butyl alcohol.77 This catalysts is very similar to PWMCM-41.

The encapsulation of PW in the cage of synthetic faujasite has been claimed, 78 however, more characterization is needed to prove it; no preparation details has been disclosed.

HPA on Carbon. While weaker acids, HPAs supported on certain activated carbons are considered to be promising fixed-bed acid catalysts for liquid-phase reactions, e.g., esterification, because of their extraordinary stability toward HPA leaching from the carrier, ⁵⁴⁸⁵ However, as shown by microcalorimetry, ⁷⁹ the acid strength of PW is greatly reduced when loading on activated carbon. As evidenced by IR and ³³P MAS NNR, PW and SIW supported on a chemically (H-PQ-) activated carbon retain the Keg-

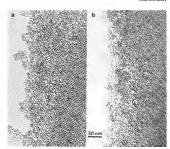


Figure 7. TEM images of the same area of 40% PWMCM-41. (a) before and (b) after amorphization. The same structure observed before and after amorphization is a clear indication that HPA is mainly located inside the MCM-41 pores. (Reprinted from ref 70. Copyright Elsevier Science LV).

gin structure at the HPA loading >5 wt % but decompose at the lower loadings. HPAs form finely dispersed species on the carbon surface; no HPA crystal phase is developed even at the HPA loading as high as 45 wt %.³⁰ In ³¹P MAS NMR spectra of carbon-supported PW, a great line broadening was observed due to a strong interaction of the HPA with carbon.³⁰ Carbon-supported H_{3+p}PMo_{12-p}N_pO₄₀ as catalysts for liquid-phase exidation have been studied.^{30,31} Scanning tunneling microscopy and tunneling spectroscopy studies on HPAs supported on graphite have been reported.^{30,32}

Other Supported HPA Catalysts. Pillaring hydrotalcite-type anionic clays (layered double hydroxides) by polyanions to form expanded layered catalysts for redox reactions has attracted considerable interest. These materials are often used as precursors for molecularly mixed oxide catalysts, which possess basic and or redox properties.84 Pillared layered double hydroxides have been prepared by ion-exchange reaction of [Zn₂Al(OH)₆]NO₂xH₂O with the Keggin-type heteropolyanions.85 Complete replacement of NO₃ is achieved for Keggin anions, such as PW₉V₃O₄₀6-, H₂W₁₂O₄₀6-, SiW₉V₃O₄₀7-, etc., with the charge of -6 or higher. No exchange was observed for anions such as PW12O403- and SiW12O404-. The intercalated anions, below 200 °C, were accessible for catalytic chemical conversions, e.g., for photocatalytic oxidation of isopropyl alcohol to acetone. The intercalation of PW into a zinc aluminum carbonate hydroxide has been studied.86 Upon interacting with the day, PW was probably partially decomposed to form a highly dispersed PW9 species, which, nevertheless, showed a higher catalytic activity and selectivity in dehydration of n-butyl alcohol than the bulk HPA at 230-250 °C. Recently the intercalation of a variety of transition metal-substituted polyoxometalates into ZnAl-NO2 and MgAl-Cl host clays has been reported.87,88 The pillaring of MgAl layered double hydroxides by H₂W₁₂O₄₀6-.

 $P_2W_1SQ_2^{G_1}$, and $[Co_4(H_2O)_2[PW_1O_3)_2]^{G_2}$ anions has been accomplished by ion exchange reaction. ⁸⁰ Polyoxometalate-intercalated hydrotaldites showed catalytic activities for the liquid-phase oxidation of cyclohexene with $O_2^{S_2}$ and shape-selective epoxidation of alkenes with $H_2O_3^{G_2}$

HPA immobilized into an organic polymer, e.g., PMo-polysulfone, PMo-polyethersulfone, ¹⁹ PMopolyacetylene¹⁰, PMo-polypyrrde, ³⁴ SiW-polyaniline, ^{25,50} and PMo- and PW-poly(1,4 phenylenemethylidynenitrilo 1,4 phenylenenitrilomethylidyne), ³⁷ have been prepared and characterized. These are daimed to have an improved catalytic activity compared to bulk HPA in gas-phase ethanol conversion.

4. Salts of HPAs

The nature of countercation in HPA salts is critical with respect to their acidity, solubility, porosity, and thermal stability. Salts with rather small cations resemble the parent HPAs; they are readily soluble in water, nonporous, and possess surface areas under 10 m² g⁻¹ (Table 3). In contrast, water-insoluble salts with large monovalent cations, such as NH₄+, K+, Cs+, etc., have a rigid microporous mesoporous structure and surface areas over 100 m² g^{-1,98} Even if these solids are prepared (by precipitation from aqueous solutions) to be stoichiometric, residual quantities of protons still remain, which are apparently responsible for the catalytic activity of these salts.99 As demonstrated by Misono, Okuhara et al.,54,100 acidic Cs salt, Cs2,5H0,5PW, has strong acid sites and high surface area (100-200 m2 g-1) and is an efficient solid acid catalyst for a variety of organic reactions, especially promising for liquid-phase reactions. The pore size of Cs salts Cs,H3-,PW can be controlled by the Cs content. Cs22HasPW possesses micropores of 6.2-7.5 Å diameter and exhibits shapeselective catalysis in a series of liquid-phase reactions.101 Izumi et al.102,103 reported that SiO2-bound Cs25H05PW, prepared through the hydrolysis of ethyl orthosilicate in the presence of colloidal Cs25H05PW in ethanol, is catalytically more active than Amberlyst-15 and H-ZSM-5, as based on the unit acid site. Catalysts obtained by loading HPAs on their insoluble salts, e.g., PMo.K.PMo, have been stud-

Table 3 Physicochemical Properties of HPA Salts

Physicochemical Properties of HPA Saits				
ionic radius, Å	solubility*	surface area, m ² g		
0.68	S	< 10		
0.97	S	< 10		
1.26	S	< 10		
0.66	S	< 10		
0.99	S	< 10		
0.72	S	< 10		
0.74	S	< 10		
0.51	S	< 10		
0.64	S	< 10		
1.02	S	< 10		
1.03	S	< 10		
1.33	N	> 100		
1.47	N	> 100		
1.67	N	> 100		
1.43	N	> 100		
	ionic radius, Å 0.68 0.97 1.26 0.66 0.99 0.72 0.74 0.51 0.64 1.02 1.03 1.33 1.47 1.67	tonic radius, & solubility 0.088 S 0.997 S 1.26 S 0.66 S 0.799 S 0.74 S 0.51 S 0.64 S 1.02 S 1.03 S 1.33 N 1.47 N 1.67 N		

² Solubility in water: S, soluble; N, insoluble.

ied. $^{[0,1]}$ C Various methods of the preparation of bulk and supported HPA salts have been described. $^{[0,0]}$ NG The $^{[2]}$ Xe NNR method has been applied to characterize the pore structure of NH_a^+ , K^+ , and Cs^+ salts of PW, PMo, and SiW to confirm the presence of microporosity therein. $^{[0,0]}$

Certain "neutral" HPA salts can also gain proton sites upon the interaction with the reaction medium. Two mechanisms of the proton generation in heteropoly salts are distinguished: the dissociation of coordinated water (for salts with the cations like Al⁸⁷, Zh²⁸, etc.) and the reduction of the metal cation (for, e.g., Agf., Cu²⁸, and Pde³⁷).²⁸

$$AI^{3+} + H_2O \rightarrow AI(OH)^{2+} + H^+$$

 $Ag^+ + 1/2H_2 \rightarrow Ag^0 + H^+$

Ono et al.² have studied Pt(II) and Pd(II) salts of PW. these are capable of acting as bifunctional catalysts in alkane isomerization. ¹H NMR studies of protons in the catalysts consisting Pd⁹ metal and PW show that the presence of H₂ and Pd⁹ greatly modifies the dynamic nature of protons in PW.¹⁰⁵ Thus it was found that at © °C under H₂, the interconversion occurs between the hydrogen atoms on Pd⁹ and protons in PW and that hydrogen atoms for Pd⁹ and protons in PW and that hydrogen atoms formed on Pd⁹ spill over to the surrounding heteropolyanions. Cs₂₂H₀₂PW catalyzes the n-butane isomerization to isobutane at 300 °C;10 combining the Cs salt with noble metals such as Pt enhances the activity in the presence of H₂. ¹¹¹

B. Homogeneous Reactions

HPAs catalyze a wide variety of reactions in homogeneous liquid phase offering strong options for more efficient and deaner processing compared to conventional mineral acids. 2º-0.11.12 Being stronger acids. HPAs will have significantly higher catalytic activity than mineral acids. In particular in organic media, the molar catalytic activity of HPA is often 100–1000 times higher than that of H₂SO₂.412 (Table 4). This makes it possible to carry out the catalytic process at a lower catalyst concentration and Δr at a lower temperature. Further, HPA catalysis lacks side reactions such as sulfonation, chicrination, nitration, etc., which occur with mineral acids.4 has stable, relatively montoxic crystalline substances, HPAs are also preferable with regard to safety and ease of handling.

Table 4. Homogeneous Reactions Catalyzed by HPA

reaction ^a	${\rm rate\ ratio}^b$	$T^{\circ}\mathbb{C}$	ref
hydration of isobutenec	2-4	40	11
hydration of phenylacetylene	100	60	11
PhC(CH ₃) ₂ OOH → PhOH + CH ₃ COCH ₃	1000	25	3
olefin + HOAc → ester	90	110	3
ester → olefin + carboxylic acid	100	128	112
THF + Ac ₂ O →	> 1000	50	11
AcO(CH ₂ CH ₂ CH ₂ CH ₂ O) _o Ac			
styrene + HCHO (Prins reaction)	50	50	11

^a Unless otherwise stated, reactions were performed in organic media. ^b HPAH₂SO₄ (per proton). ^cIn aqueous solution.

The relative activity of Keggin HPAs primarily depends on their acid strength. Other properties such as the oxidation potential, which determines the reducibility of HPA by reaction medium, as well as the thermal and hydrolytic stability are also important. These properties for the most common HPAs are summarized below.⁴

acid strength

oxidation potential

thermal stability

hydrolytic stability

Usually, tungsten HPAs are the catalysts of choice because of their stronger addity, higher thermal stability, and lower oxidation potential compared to molybdenum HPAs. ⁴ Generally, if the reaction rate is controlled by the catalyst acid strength, PWshows the highest catalytic activity in the Keggin series. However, in the case of less demanding reactions as well as in reactions at higher temperatures in the presence of water, SiW, having lower oxidation potential and higher hydrolytic stability, can be superior to PW.

The major problem, limiting the utility of homogeneously catalyzed processes, is the well-known difficulty in catalyst recovery and recycling. As the cost of HPAs is higher than mineral acids, the recycling of HPA catalysts is the key issue to their application. Only a few homogeneous reactions allow for easy HPA recycling, for example, hydration of olefins (see below). In some cases, HPA can be recovered from polar organic solution without neutralization by precipitating with a hydrocarbon solvent. HPA can also be extracted from an acidified aqueous solution of its salt with a polar organic solvent. Even though the neutralization of HPA is necessary, the amount of alkali needed and hence the amount of waste formed thereupon is much less than with mineral acids. A more efficient way to overcome the separation problem is the use of biphasic systems or solid HPA catalysts, which will be discussed later. Below are given selected examples of HPA-catalyzed homogeneous reactions. More can be found in refs 2-6. 8. 11. and 12.

1. Hydration of Olefins

The HPA-catalyzed hydration of C_3 — C_4 olefins (eq 1) is an industrially important reaction, the hydration of propene being the first commercial process based on HPA catalysis. 10

$$RCH=CH_2 + H_2O \rightarrow RCH(OH)CH_3$$
 (1)

The hydration of isobutene is used for the separation of isobutene from the C₄ hydrocarbon stream

$$(CH^{\beta})^{*}C-CH^{\beta} \xrightarrow{H^{+}} (CH^{\beta})^{*}CCH + H^{+} \qquad (CH^{\beta})^{*}CCH + HSW^{12}C^{\circ}_{\circ}^{\circ}$$

$$(CH^{\beta})^{*}C \xrightarrow{H^{+}} (CH^{\beta})^{*}CCH + HSW^{12}C^{\circ}_{\circ}^{\circ}$$

$$(CH^{\beta})^{*}C \xrightarrow{H^{+}} (CH^{\beta})^{*}CCH + HSW^{12}C^{\circ}_{\circ}^{\circ}^{\circ}$$

$$(CH^{\beta})^{*}C \xrightarrow{H^{+}} (CH^{\beta})^{*}CCH + HSW^{12}C^{\circ}_{\circ}^{\circ}^{\circ}$$

Figure 8. The mechanism of the hydration of isobutene. 113

produced by cracking. As the catalyst, a concentrated aqueous solution of HPA is used. Compared to mineral acids, such as H2SO4, HNO3, and HClO4, HPA is 2-4 times more active per equal H₃O⁺ concentration and shows a higher selectivity, minimizing side reactions such as isobutene oligomerization. 113,114 Izumi et al. 11,113 showed that the reaction order with respect to HPA depends on the HPA concentration: first order in diluted HPA solution and nearly second order in concentrated solution. In contrast, the reaction with mineral acids is first order in the catalyst. The solubility of isobutene also significantly increases with increasing the HPA concentration. On these bases, a two-path reaction mechanism is suggested (Figure 8). Path I is a commonly accepted mechanism with the formation of the intermediate carbenium ion. This mechanism does operate with mineral acids. Path II includes the formation of a complex of heteropolyanion with the carbenium ion driven by the soft basicity of heteropolyanion (see above). It is path II that is assumed to be responsible for promoting the reaction by stabilizing the intermediate carbenium ion in the above complex. From this mechanism the overall rate of the isobutene hydration, in agreement with experiment, can be expressed as

$$v = k_1[O1][H_3O^+] + k_2[O1][H_3O^+][HPA^{n-}]$$

where k_1 and k_2 are the rate constants of paths I and II and [OI] and [HPAn-] are the concentrations of olefin and heteropolyanion, respectively. 113 On the other hand, as found later by Kozhevnikov et al., 115 the rate of isobutene hydration catalyzed by HPAs obeys the Hammett plot: $\log k = -1.04H_0 - 3.46$ And this plot is also valid for mineral acids such as H₂SO₄ HCl, HNO₃, and HClO₄. This may indicate that the reaction with both HPAs and mineral acids proceeds via the same principal mechanism, for example, path I. These authors 115 interpreted the high order with respect to HPA as a result of the strong specific salt effect of highly charged heteropolyanions. However, if considered on the molecular level, this explanation may be similar to what is suggested in path II by Izumi et al. 113

HPAs were reported to be more efficient catalysts than H₂SO₄ and HClO₄ in the hydration of phenylacetylene¹¹ (eq 2).

$$PhC \equiv CH + H_2O \rightarrow PhCOCH_3$$
 (2)

Cycloalkenes are hydrated to cycloalkanols with 99% selectivity in the presence of a catalyst consisting of a concentrated aqueous solution of an arylsulfonic acid and tungsten HPA. 116 PW and SiW are efficient catalysts for the homogeneous hydration of camphene to isoborneol, which is an intermediate in the synthesis of camphor. 117

2 Esterification and Related Reactions

These reactions have been extensively studied in the presence of Keggin and Dawson HPAs as homogeneous catalysts. 411,112 Generally, such reactions are performed in organic media, and water greatly affects the reaction rate. 112 The catalytic activities of HPAs usually follow the order of their acid strengths, 4 as expected for Brönsted acid catalysis. However, Mo acids, having a higher oxidation potential than Wones, may exhibit a lower activity than expected from their acid strengths due to their reduction by the reaction medium.411

Recently Misono et al. 112 studied a series of homogeneous reactions such as decomposition of isobutyl propionate (IBP), transesterification of IBP with acetic acid and n-propyl alcohol, and esterification of propionic acid with isobutyl alcohol (eqs 3-6).

$$\begin{array}{c} {\rm C_2H_5COOCH_2CH(CH_3)_2} \rightarrow \\ {\rm (CH_3)_2C=CH_2+C_2H_5COOH} \end{array} \eqno(3)$$

$$\begin{array}{c} C_2H_5COOCH_2CH(CH_3)_2+CH_3COOH \rightarrow \\ CH_3COOCH_2CH(CH_3)_2+C_2H_5COOH \end{array}$$

$$C_2H_5COOCH_2CH(CH_3)_2 + n - C_3H_7OH \rightarrow$$

 $C_2H_5COOC_3H_7 + (CH_3)_2CHCH_2OH$ (5)

$$(CH_3)_2CHCH_2OH + C_2H_5COOH \rightarrow C_2H_5COOCH_2CH(CH_3)_2 + H_2O$$
 (©)

In reaction 3. HPAs are 60-100 times more active than H₂SO₄ and p-toluenesulfonic acid (TsOH). The activity is in the order PW > SiW ≥ GeW > BW > $H_6P_2\check{W}_{18}O_{62} > CoW$. The same activity pattern was observed for reaction 4 in the absence of water. In contrast to reaction 3, the addition of water greatly accelerated reaction 4 and probably changed its course to proceed via the hydrolysis of IBP to propionic acid and isobutyl alcohol, followed by the esterification of isobutyl alcohol with acetic acid. On the other hand, for reactions 5 and 6 no significant difference in the activity between HPAs and H2SO4 was observed probably due to the leveling effect of the reactant alcohols on the acid strength of the catalysts.

Dialkyl phthalates, utilized as plasticizers, were obtained by esterifying phthalic anhydride with C₈-C₁₀ alcohols at 100-120 °C in the presence of PW (1-2%) as a homogeneous catalyst. 65 The catalytic activity of HPA is significantly higher than that of H₂SO₄ and TsOH. HPA supported on activated carbon can also be used as a heterogeneous catalyst. Although HPA C is less active than the homogeneous PW catalyst, it can be easily separated from the reaction mixture and reused.

Synthesis of glycosides catalyzed by HPA is of industrial importance. 10 Glycosides are used as new effective and biodegradable surfactants. HPA is

several times more active than the conventional catalysts such as TsOH and ZnCl₂. Thus acetylated monosaccharides interact readily with alcohols in a homogeneous phase in the presence of 2% of HPA with respect to the sugar derivative at 70-130 °C, yielding 70-90% of glycosides 118 (eq 7).

HPA is applicable as an active and selective catalyst in the homogeneous alcoholysis of epoxides (epichlorohydrin, 1,2-epoxybutane, isobutene oxide, styrene oxide, etc.) under rather mild conditions (45 °C, excess of alcohol)11 (eq 8). HPA has much higher

$$R^1R^2C - CH_2 + ROH \longrightarrow R^1R^2C - CH_2 + OR OH$$

$$R^1R^2C - CH_2 \longrightarrow OR OH$$
(8)

activity than H2SO4 and TsOH. With H2SO4, in contrast to HPA, the rapid deactivation of the catalyst was observed probably due to the formation of an alkyl sulfate, resulting in loss of acidity. Likewise, in the acetolysis of epoxides, tetrahydrofuran, and linear esters, performed in an excess of acetic acid, HPA is far more effective than other acid catalysts such as TsOH and BF3+H2O. And again, like with H₂SO₄, the activity of TsOH decreases in the early stage of the reaction due to the formation of a tosyl

Methyl tert-butyl ether (MTBE)-a gasoline octane booster-is produced industrially on a large scale by reacting isobutene with methanol in the presence of an acid catalyst, e.g., acidic ion-exchange resin (eq HPAs and their salts also catalyze the MTBE

$$(CH_3)_2C=CH_2 + CH_3OH \rightarrow CH_3OC(CH_3)_3$$
 (9)

synthesis as homogeneous and heterogeneous catalysts.2 Maksimov and Kozhevnikov119 showed that in the homogeneous reaction at 42 °C, Keggin-type HPAs such as PW and SiW are 2-4 times more active than conventional catalysts in terms of the reaction rate per unit proton site. Interestingly, a Dawson-type HPA, H₆P₂W₁₈O₆₂, shows two times higher activity than the Keggin-type PW. However, with regard to the activity per unit weight of catalyst, H₂SO₄ is the most active catalyst. Recently liquidphase synthesis of MTBE 120 and ethyl tert-butyl ether 121 by HPA-catalyzed etherification of tert-butyl alcohol with methanol and ethanol, respectively, has been studied.

3 Condensation

HPAs have long been known as catalysts for condensation reactions, e.g., the condensation of acetone to mesityl oxide and alkylbenzenes⁴ and the condensation of ketones and phenols to bisphenols. ¹²²

Kozhevnikov et al. $^{12\times124}$ have shown that HPA is an efficient catalyst for condensations in the syntheses of vitamins E, K₁ and C. Thus, PW and SiW catalyze the condensation of isophytol with 2,3.5 trimethylhydroquinone (IMHQ) to α -tocopherol (eq 10), which is the active form of vitamin E. 122 The

reaction is performed in a homogeneous phase (e.g., in butyl acetate or acetic acid) or in a heterogeneous system (e.g., in toluene) with ~ 1 wt % HPA based on TMHQ. With HPA, practically the same yield and quality of vitamin E is obtained as with ZnCl₂ which is the best commercial catalyst. However, ZnCl₂ is used in a stockloimetric amount, resulting in a large amount of waste. In contrast to ZnCl₂ HPA can be recovered after the reaction and reused.

HPA catalyzes the Prins reaction of alkenes with formaldehyde to yield 1.3-dioxanes. Thus in the reaction of styrene (eq. 11), Keggin-type HPAs were shown to be superior to H_2SO_4 and TsOH, the activity differing only slightly in the series of HPAs 11

4. Mscellaneous Reactions

Izumi and Fujitai²⁶ reported that an iminium salt, prepared by interacting Ni-Midmethylformanide with epithlorohydrin in the presence of PW or SiW, effectively catalyzes the liquid-phase Beckmann rearrangement of cyclohexancne oxime to c-capridactam (eq 12) under mild conditions (30–60°C). The product lactam was found to poison the catalyst, although reversibly. The turnover of the catalyst attained 200.

HPAs have long been known as very efficient catalysts for the decomposition of cumene hydroperoxide to phenol and acetone^{126,127} (eq. 13). Similarly,

$$PhC(CH_3)_2OOH \rightarrow PhOH + CH_3COCH_3$$
 (13)

1,35trihydroxybenzene is formed via the decomposition of 1,35trihisopropylbenzene hydroperoxide at 50–100 °C with 97% selectivity at 89% hydroperoxide conversion. 128

1.2 Dids (1.2 propanedid, 2.3 butanedid, and 2.3 dimethyl-2.3 butanedid) readily undergo the pinacd rearrangement to yield the corresponding carbonyl compounds (propanal, 2 butanone, and 3.3 dimethyl-2 butanone, respectively) in the presence of PW, SiW, PMo, and SiMo. 1.4 and 1.5 dids under such conditions selectively form cyclic ethers. ¹²⁰

Kortz and Popelso have synthesized and fully characterized twonew polycocondybdate diphrosphate complexes with the formula $[0.9 \text{PMPO}_2]M_0O_1S$; $(H_2O)_1^{1/2}$ (X = O or CH)). The polyanion with X = O is a possible intermediate in the molybdate-catalyzed hydrolysis of pyrophosphate at pH 2.

C. Biphasic Reactions

Separation of products and recovery and recycling of a catalyst often becomes much easier if a homogeneously catalyzed reaction can be performed in a biphasic system consisting of two immiscible liquid phases—a catalyst phase and a product reactant phase-with intense mass transfer between them. HPAs due to their special solubility properties, i.e., high solubility in a variety of polar solvents and insolubility in nonpolar solvents, are suitable catalysts for operating under phase-transfer conditions. There are two types of such biphasic systems: (1) initially homogeneous, a reaction system separates in two liquid phases in the course of the reaction; and (2) a reaction system is biphasic from the very beginning. The catalyst phase, usually the lower one, is a solution of HPA in a polar reactant. The reaction predominantly proceeds in the catalyst phase, and the product formed is transferred to the less polar product phase. The amount of HPA in the product phase must be negligible to allow easy catalyst separation.

1. Polymerization of Tetrahydrofuran

Polymerization of tetrahydrofuran ([THF) is used for the preparation of pdycaytetramethylene glycol (PTMG), which is employed for manufacturing Spandex fibers and polymethanes. PTMG is commercially produced by a two-step process, including ring-opening polymerization of THF with acetic anhydride catalyzed by HCIO_a, followed by hydrolysis of the terminal acetate groups in the preplymer. Izuml et al., ⁵⁰¹ found that HFA is more active than HCIO_a in the polymerization of THF. Aoshima et al. ⁵⁰² have developed a one-step process for the THF polymerization to firectly yield PTMG (eq. 14).

$$nTHF + H_2O \rightarrow HO[(CH_2)_2O]_H$$
 (14)

PTMG is obtained by ring opening THF with water in the presence of PW at 60°C. The H₀DPW modar ratio is critical for the process, controlling the reaction rate and molecular weight of polymer. When the H₂OPW modar ratio is above 15, a homogeneous phase forms, and no reaction takes place. When the H₂OPW ratio is below 15, the solution separates in two liquid phases—a THF (upper) phase and a PW—THF—H₂O (lower) phase. The polymerization starts when H₂OPW ratio is decreased below 10. The pdymer is formed in the HPA phase and transferred

to the THF phase. The reaction rate increases with decreasing H₂O.PW ratio, and so does the molecular weight of polymer. The process is performed continuously. The PTMG with a molecular weight of 500-2000 and a narrow molecular weight distribution is obtained from the THF phase.

Similarly, PW and PMo catalyze the polymerization of cyclic formaldehyde acetal and trimer, 1,3 dioxolane and 1,3,5 trioxane, respectively. Thus, in the polymerization of 1.3.5-trioxane, the comparable reaction rates can be obtained with 25 times less a catalyst consumption on weight basis than for conventional catalyst like BF3*OR2. 133

2 Esterification

Esterification of p-nitrobenzoic acid is a step of the anesthetic synthesis. Ethyl p-nitrobenzoate is obtained in a 99% yield by esterification of p-nitrobenzoic acid with ethanol (eq 15) in the presence of PW (3-7 wt %) at 75 °C. 5 Water formed in the reaction

COOH
$$CO_2$$
Et $+ EIOH \longrightarrow + H_2O$ (15)

course is separated by azeotropic distillation with toluene. Initially homogeneous, the reaction mixture becomes a two-phase system in the end of the reaction. The upper phase contains the product; the lower phase is a concentrated solution of HPA in ethanol. The catalyst phase is easily separated and can be reused.

Acetoxylation and hydration of dihydromyrcene (DHM) yield dihydromyrcenol (DHM-OH) and dihydromyrcenyl acetate (DHM-OAc) (eq 16), respectively, which are useful as perfume ingredients.

$$\begin{array}{c}
AcOH + H_2O \\
\\
AcOH - H_2O
\end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c}
AcOH + H_2O \\
\\
AcOH - H_2O
\end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c}
AcOH + H_2O \\
\\
AcOH - H_2O
\end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c}
AcOH + H_2O \\
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AcOH - H_2O
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$$\begin{array}{c}
AcOH + H_2O \\
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AcOH - H_2O
\end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c}
AcOH + H_2O \\
\\
AcOH - H_2O
\end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c}
AcOH + H_2O \\
\\
AcOH - H_2O
\end{array}$$

These reactions occur simultaneously in a two-phase system in the presence of HPA at 14-30 °C. 134 The upper phase mainly consists of DHM and the lower phase is a concentrated solution of PW in aqueous acetic acid. Acetic acid is approximately equally distributed between the two phases. The reaction proceeds in the catalyst phase to form DHM-OH and DHM-OAc, which are transferred to the DHM phase. The process reaches an equilibrium at ~30% DHM conversion and is strongly complicated by acidcatalyzed isomerization and cyclization of DHM. This method provides 90% selectivity to the sum of DHM-OH and DHM-OAc at 21% DHM conversion. The catalyst phase can be reused without loss of activity.

3 Other Reactions

Keggin-type HPAs such as PMo, PW, and SiW catalyze the cyclotrimerization of aldehydes, such as

ethanal, propanal, butanal, 2-methylpropanal, etc., to produce 2.4.6-trialkyl-1.3.5-trioxanes in high yields (eq 17), as reported by Sato et al. 135,136 Catalyst

turnover number is more than 10 000 for the propanal cyclotrimerization. At high conversions of aldehyde, the reaction mixture spontaneously separates into two phases, a product phase and a catalyst phase, which, depending on aldehyde can be solid or liquid. For the propanal cyclotrimerization, the reaction mixture separates into two liquid phases, and the recovered catalyst phase can be easily reused. Vapor-phase trimerization of formaldehyde to trioxane catalyzed by H₄PMo₁₁VO₄₀ supported on silicon carbide at 110 °C has been studied. 13

Sato et al. 138 examined various acetal formation reactions between monoalcohols or diols and a range of aldehydes or ketones catalyzed by a Keggin-type HPA in comparison with other acid catalysts. The reaction was strongly inhibited by water produced in the reaction course. The catalyst activity was found to decrease in the order: SiW > PMo > PW > TsOH > H₂SO₄. For several reactions between a carbonyl compound and a diol, the reaction mixture was spontaneously separated into two liquid phases, enabling easy catalyst recycling.

Timofeeva and Kozhevnikovi39 reported the alkylation of hydroguinone with isobutene to yield 2-tertbutvlhydroguinone and 2.5-di-tert-butvlhydroguinone catalyzed by H₃PW₁₂O₄₀, H₆P₂W₁₈O₆₂, and H₆P₂W₂₁O₇₁ under phase-transfer conditions in a biphasic system, including toluene (upper phase) and HPA dioxane etherate, HPA-xC4H8O2-vH2O (lower phase). In this case, the two phases are immiscible from the very beginning, and the products are obtained from the toluene phase. The yield of 2-tert-butylhydroquinone increases in the series: H6P2W18O62 < $\dot{H}_6P_2W_{21}O_{71} \le H_3PW_{12}O_{40}$ with $H_3PW_{12}O_{40}$ being 70% (85 °C). H₃PW₁₂O₄₀ showed a higher efficiency than H₂SO₄ or H₂PO₄

D. Heterogeneously Catalyzed Liquid-Phase Reactions'

In this section, reactions in liquid-solid systems catalyzed by bulk and supported HPAs and their insoluble salts are discussed. In heterogeneous as well as in homogeneous systems, HPAs are generally more efficient than conventional catalysts, such as SiO2-Al2O3, zeolites, etc., which is in line with their relative acid strengths. 248,11 Obvious advantage of heterogeneous systems over homogeneous is easy separation of a catalyst from reaction products. Furthermore, since HPAs are soluble only in wet nucleophilic solvents, levelling the acid strength (dehydrated HPAs are scarcely soluble in dry polar media), their intrinsic strong acidity cannot be fully utilized in homogeneous systems. Hence, for catalyzing highly demanding reactions, e.g., the Friedel— Crafts reaction, HPA must be used as a solid acid catalyst in a dry nonnucleophilic medium. To enhance the acid strength, solid HPA catalysts are usually dehydrated by evacuating at $150-300\,^{\circ}\text{C}$ for $1-2\,\text{h.}^4$

A serious problem with the solid HPA catalysts is their deactivation during organic reactions due to the formation of carbonaceous deposit (coke) on the catalyst surface. This problem remains to be solved to put heterogeneous HPA catalysis in practice. Conventional regeneration by burning coke at 500–550 °C, which is routinely used in the case of aluminosilicates and zeolites, is not applicable to HPAs because their thermal stability is not high enough to do so. Supporting HPA on a carrier inhibits the formation of coke, "I while bulk HPAs, having very strong acid sites and low surface area, coke more rapidly.

1. Paraffin Alkylation

The paraffin alkylation is utilized in industry for obtaining higher cotane paraffins which are blended into gascline. H_2SO_4 or HF are used as homogeneous catalysts in this process. PW supported (75%) on a series of carriers, such as mesoporous molecular sleve MCM-41, amorphous silica, and alumina, has been studied as the catalyst for the isobutane 2-butnee alkylation in comparison with a MCM-22 zeolite. ⁷⁰ The reaction was performed in a stirred autoclave at 120°C and 30 atm with a 50.1 isobutane 2-butnee feed. The greatest olefin conversion (87%) was observed with PWMCM-41. The alkylate quality (trimethylpertane to dimethylhexane ratio) observed with PWMCM-41, albeit worse compared with MCM-22 is better than with PWMSIO_ α PWAI_O_3.

2 Friedel-Crafts and Related Reactions

HPAs and their salts are promising solid acid catalysts for Friedel–Crafts reactions, to replace the conventional homogeneous catalysts such as AICl₃ BF $_{\infty}$ and H $_{3}$ SO $_{4}$ which bring about serious environmental and operational problems—high toxidity, corrosion, spent acid disposal, difficulty of separation and recovery, etc. ¹¹

Izumi et ā. I. Found that silica-supported PW is a very active catalyst, superior to other HPAs, for the alkylation of benzene with 1-octene. At a low reaction temperature of 35 °C and an excess of benzene, the major product is 2 phenyloctane (50 ~80 md %), 3- and 4-phenyloctanes also being formed. The catalytic activity depends on the pretreatment temperature and the HPA loading. In contrast, in the alkylation of arenes with benzyl chloride, the most efficient catalyst is PMoSiO₂.

In the acylation of p-xylene with benzoyl chloride, however, PMo in the PMoSiO₂ catalyst was found to decompose during the reaction. ¹¹ Probably, the real active species is not the supported PMo, but some soluble species which might be formed by the interaction between PMo and benzoyl chloride. In contrast to PMo, SIW and PW both effectively catalyze the acylation and remain unchanged on the SiO₂ surface after the reaction. But in a more polar reaction medium, as in the acylation of chlorobenzene, even SIW leaches from the silica support and decomposes in the course of the reaction like PMo. Benzoic anhydride can be used as an acylating agent with the SiWSiO₂ catalyst, but benzoic acid cannot.

Table 5. Friedel-Crafts Acylation 142

substra	ites	product yield*		
acylating agent	arene	Cs25H05PW12O40	H ₃ PW ₁₂ O ₄	
(PhCO) ₂ O	p-xylene	57		
(PhCO) ₂ O	anisole	85	69	
Ac ₂ O	anisole	89	50	
n-C ₇ H ₁₅ COCI	mesitylene	80	44	

a Acylating agent árene éatalyst = 5/100.0.01 mmol, reflux, 21.

A weaker solid acid, SiW.carbon, can also catalyze the acylation, but less efficiently than SiW.SiO₂.¹¹

As found by Soeda et al., 140 bulk PW shows a better per formance than liquid (H_2 SO₄, CF $_2$ COOH) or solid (Amberlyst 15, SIO $_2$ AlO $_2$) catalysts for the selective alkylation of p-xylene with isobutene at 30 °C to afford tar-butyl-p-xylene—an important precursor for liquid crystalline polymers—with 75% selectivity.

Misono, Okuhara, et al. 30,5414 demonstrated that the insoluble salt Cs₂-Ha₂PW, which has a large surface area and strong add sites, is a promising solid add catalyst for Friedel-Crafts reactions. In the alkylation of 1,35-trimethylbenzene by cyclobescene, this salt was found to be more active than the parent add PW.⁵⁰ It was suggested that the higher hydrophobicity of the Cs salt compared to HPA is beneficial for the adsorption of the nonpolar reacting molecules. In addition, it was claimed that the Cs*cation could favorably change the softness of heteropolyanion, thus enhanding the stabilization of the intermediate cyclobesyl cation by the polyanion.

Cs22H03PW shows high efficiency in acylation of activated arenes, such as pxylone, anisole, mesitylene, etc., by acetic and benzoic anhydrides and acyl chlorides (Table 5). This catalyst provides higher yields of acylated arenes than the parent PW, the latter being partly soluble in the reaction mixture.¹⁴²

Bulk and silica-supported tungsten HPAs are very efficient and versatile catalysts for alkylation, dealkylation, and transalkylation of phenois 143-149 (egs 18-20). Such reactions are widely used for the prepa-

$$\bigvee_{\mathsf{P}}^{\mathsf{OH}} \longrightarrow \bigvee_{\mathsf{P}}^{\mathsf{OH}} + \longrightarrow (10)$$

ration of antioxidants, bioactive substances as well as for positional protection in organic synthesis. As found by Kulikov et al., 143-146 PW is much more active

Table 6. Alkylation of p-tert-Butylphenol (TBP) by Styrene Catalyzed by PWMCM-41 s,76

	selectivity, mol %			
catalyst	I	H	other products	
PW	23	68	9	
40% PWMCM-41	66	21	13	
40% PW/SiO ₂	24	64	12	

^{4 40}wt % catalyst, in p-octane, 105°C, 90% TBP conversion.

than conventional catalysts, such as H₂SO₄, ionexchange resin, aluminosilicates, etc., generally providing higher yields of products. Even Nafion-H, a perfluorinated ion-exchange resin comparable in its acid strength to 100% H2SO4, is less active than PW.146

The trans-de-tert-butylation of phenols (eq 20, where ArH = o-xylene) is first order with respect to both phenol and HPA. 147 With PWSiO2 catalysts, the rate depends dramatically on HPA loading. The rate based on the HPA weight increases with increasing HPA loading, passing a maximum at 30 wt % HPA loading. This dependence is explained as a result of the competitive influence of enhancing the acid strength and reducing the number of the surface proton sites as the HPA loading increases. In contrast, the rate based on the amount of surface protons, increases monotonously with HPA loading as the acid strength increases.

The alkylation of p-cresol with isobutene (eq 18. where $R = CH_3$ and $R' = C(CH_3)_3$ with the use of PW instead of H₂SO₄ has been commercialized in Russia.⁵ It is a step in the synthesis of antioxidants. The use of HPA provides the gain in selectivity of 7-10% and almost completely eliminates toxic water pollution in the process.

Phenols can be alkylated with a terminally unsaturated olefin polymer in the presence of HPA. Thus ethylene A-butene copolymer (Mn 3300) was used to alkylate phenol in o-dichlorobenzene with PW precalcined at 300 °C as the catalyst. The alkylphenols so formed are useful as precursors for the preparation of fuel and lubricant additives. 149

PW supported (20-50 wt %) on a mesoporous puresilica molecular sieve MCM-41, having 30 Å uniformly sized pores, exhibits a higher catalytic activity than H₂SO₄ or bulk PW and shows shape selectivity in alkylation of 4 tert-butylphenol with defins 75 (eq. where R = C(CH₃)₃. In the alkylation with styrene, PWMCM-41 provides a higher yield of the monosubstituted product 2-(1-phenylethyl)-4-tert-butylphenol (I) than bulk PW or PW supported on amorphous silica, at the expense of the more bulky disubstituted product 2,6-bis(1-phenylethyl)-4-tertbutylphenol (II) (Table 6). HPAMCM-41 may be a promising solid acid catalyst for conversion and formation of organic compounds of large molecular

3. Esterification, Hydrolysis, and Related Reactions

There is a strong demand for new solid acid catalysts, having advanced characteristics, to replace conventional liquid and solid catalysts, such as sulfuric acid and ion-exchange resins, in the title reactions.11 Sulfuric acid, as already mentioned, poses serious environmental and operational problems. Acidic ion-exchange resins such as Amberlyst-15 are widely employed, but only at temperatures below 100 °C due to their low thermal stability. It should be noted that in these reactions in which water participates as a reactant or a product, there are only a few solid acid catalysts that may meet the criteria of activity and stability. As demonstrated by Izumi et al., 11,103 certain supported HPA catalysts as well as insoluble HPA salts have advantages as catalysts for liquid-phase reactions in aqueous media because they are practically insoluble, thermally more stable than acidic resins and have strong

Active carbon strongly adsorbs a certain amount of HPA, and carbon-supported HPAs thus obtained catalyze liquid-phase esterification and related reactions in polar media. 11 The maximum HPA loading tightly retained on carbon in water or methanol is ~10 wt %, slightly depending on the type of carbon and its pretreatment. The carbon-supported PW catalyze the formation of butyl tert-butyl ether from n-butyl alcohol and tert-butyl alcohol at 106 °C and the esterification of acetic acid with n-butyl alcohol at 60 °C.11 Schwegler et al.65 applied this catalyst for the esterification of phthalic anhydride with C8-C₁₀ alcohols at 100-120 °C to yield dialkyl phthalates. In all these reactions, the catalyst can be reused, no HPA leaching from carbon being observed. However, the carbon-supported HPA catalysts have a rather low catalytic activity because of their weak acidity. In addition, active carbon strongly adsorbs polar organic substances which makes the work-up procedure more difficult.

Dupont and Lefebvre 150 have studied the esterification of propanoic acid by butanol or 2-ethylhexanol catalyzed by SiW and PW pure or supported on carbon supports. In the homogeneous reaction the reaction rate was proportional to the concentration of protons. Accordingly, SiWshowed slightly higher activity than PW. Carbon-supported HPAs in all cases exhibited lower activity than the pure HPAs. the activity depending on the carbon support and the HPA loading. In addition, a deactivation occurred during the recycling of these catalysts due to the leaching of HPA from support.

Izumi et al. 102 showed that the insoluble salt Cs25H05PW is an active solid acid catalyst for esterification and hydrolysis. For example, it is much more active than zeolite H-ZSM-5 for the hydrolysis of ethyl acetate and esterification of acetic acid with ethanol. 102 However, Cs25H05PW, consisting of very fine particles (~10 nm), readily forms a colloidal solution in water or alcohol, which makes it inseparable by filtration.

As reported recently, 103 Cs_{2.5}H_{0.5}PW and even PW itself, which is highly soluble in water, can be included in the silica matrix by means of a sol-gel technique to be water insoluble and easily separable microporous solid acid catalysts. The catalysts thus obtained have large surface areas (400-800 m² g⁻¹), strong acidity and are thermally more stable than Amberlyst-15. They effectively catalyze the hydrolysis of ethyl acetate in aqueous phase, showing higher turnover rates than Amberlyst-15 and H-ZSM-5. Remarkably, the immobilization of PWinto the silica matrix effectively suppresses the HPA leaching to as low as 0.3% during the hydrolysis reaction (60°C, 3 Note that in the case of the usual silica-supported PW catalyst, HPA completely dissolves in the reaction medium. Interestingly, the catalytic activity of the silica-included HPA is higher than the homogeneous acid. It is suggested that PWis entrapped in the silica network as a highly concentrated aqueous solution, and the silica network is probably narrow enough to prevent the Keggin anion from leaching outside. It is expected that silica-included heteropoly compounds may find wide applications to acidcatalyzed liquid-phase reactions in aqueous media as potential alternatives for H₂SO₄ and ion-exchange resins. 103

In the acetoxylation of dihydromyrcene (DHM) (eq 16), the 40% PWSIC)c catalyst shows a comparable activity with the homogeneous PWcatalyst, while the selectivity of the solid catalyst is higher. 8th The latter is probably because it is more difficult for a carbenium ion intermediate to isomerize on the catalyst surface than in solution. Wth a stotchiometric 1:1 DHM-AcOH mixture, no PW leaching from the catalyst was observed. The PWSiC₂ catalyst can be reused; however, a gradual deactivation was observed. Bulk PW had a very low activity, if any, probably due to the small surface area and the blocking of proton sites by DHM oligomers.

Okuhara et al. M1 reported that Cs2eHoePWis more active for liquid-phase cyclohexyl acetate decomposition than such solid acid catalysts as Nafion-H, HY, and H-ZSM-5 zeolites, and SO/2 ZrO.

Timofeeva et al. 181 found that the esterification of dipicolinic acid (DA) with butanol (eq 21), which is a step of the synthesis of pharmaceutics, is catalyzed by PWas well as by its insoluble salts. PW (14 $^{\circ}$ %) as a homogeneous catalyst is almost as efficient as sulfuric acid, yielding 100% of the DA diester (118 $^{\circ}$ C, 3h). The acidic Ce $^{3\circ}$ salt, Ce₁₃ $^{\circ}$ Ali, 2 PW, practically insoluble in butanol, has been found to be fairly active as a heterogeneous catalyst to give a 100% yield of the DA diester (S4 wt %, 118 $^{\circ}$ C, 4 h). Although less active than the parent HPA, Ce₀₃ $^{\circ}$ Ho. PW can be easily separated and reused. Insoluble NH $_4^{\circ}$, $^{\circ}$ K $^{\circ}$, and Cs $^{\circ}$ salts of PWshowed only moderate activities in this reaction.

4. Miscellaneous Reactions

Silica-supported PWhas been found to be an active and recyclable catalyst for the Diels-Alder reaction (eq. 22) in toluene medium, providing a 70–80% yield. ¹⁵² The Ce³⁺ salt, Ce_{0.87}H_{0.4}PW, showed a fairly high activity too, while Cs_{2.87}H_{0.97}PW was practically inactive. Bulk PW exhibited a very low activity

probably due to the small surface area and site blocking by diene polymers.

III. Multicomponent Polyoxometalates in Liquid-Phase Oxidation

The liquid-phase oxidation of organic substances catalyzed by polyoxometalates (POM) proceeds in homogeneous or biphasic systems, dioxygen, hydrogen peroxide, alkylperoxides, etc., being applied as oxidants. In contrast to acid catalysis, where easily available classical Keggin-type HPAs dominate, in the liquid-phase oxidation, a wide variety of transition metal-substituted heteropolyanions are used. Multicomponent POM redox catalysts are considered as robust oxidation-resistant inorganic metalloporphyrin analogs, 12,16,153 The state of POMs in solution is generally complicated by a series of pH-dependent equilibria, involving a variety of polyanions and mononuclear metallospecies. These equilibria, with a few exceptions, are largely unknown. As a result, relatively little exact knowledge of mechanisms of POM-catalyzed oxidation is available. In this part. we will discuss oxidations with the use of the most important and environmentally benign oxidantsdioxygen and hydrogen peroxide. Several reviews on catalysis by POM in the liquid-phase oxidation have been published. 236 12 13 16 154 155

A. Oxidation with Dioxygen

This section mainly reviews recent applications of Keggin-type mixed-addenda heteropolyanions PMo_{12-n}V_nO₄₀(3+n)- (HPA-n) as catalysts for aerobic liquid-phase oxidation. Here HPA-n can mean either anion or acid as well as a partially protonated anion. The HPA-n catalytic system, discovered by Matveev et al. 1, 156 in the 1970s, is the most efficient and versatile one in the POM series for oxidation by Os. 3 157-159 Discussed are HPA-n-catalyzed reactions in homogeneous, biphasic, and heterogeneous systems as well as mechanistic aspects of the HPA-n catalysis. It should be noted that a HPA-n-based catalyst is used in industry for the gas-phase oxidation of methacrolein to methacrylic acid. 10 Numerous attempts have been made to perform aerobic oxidations by other kinds of POM: for a review, see ref. 16.

1. General Principles

In liquid-phase oxidation, HPA-nwith n=2–6are used. These compounds are remarkable because they are the reversibly acting oxidants under mild conditions. ¹³ The presence of a certain number of V ions in the heteropolyanions is essential. Thus, the all-molybdenum anion PMo $_{\rm E}$ O $_4$ 3° (HPA-O) fails to possess such redox properties under mild conditions; so does HPA-1 for reasons that will be discussed later.

Generally reactions catalyzed by HPA-n proceed via a stepwise redox mechanism represented by eas 23 and 24:

$$HPA-n + Red + mH^+ \rightarrow H_m(HPA-n) + Ox$$
 (23)

$$H_m(HPA-n) + (m/4)O_2 \rightarrow HPA-n + (m/2)H_2O$$
 (24)

This mechanism includes stoichiometric m-electron oxidation of the substrate, Red, by HPA-n to form the product, Ox, followed by reoxidation of the reduced form of the oxidant, $H_m(HPA-n)$, with dioxygen, where $H_m(HPA-n) = H_m(PMo_{12-n}^{6+}V_{n-m}^{5+}V_m^{4+})^{(3+n)-}$. Actually, it is the V⁵⁺ ↔ V⁴⁺ transformation that is responsible for the redox properties of HPA-n. The reduction of HPA-n in solution is accompanied by protonation to maintain the charge of the polyanion. In aqueous solution, HPA-n are generally used in the pH range from 0.5 to 3.5, where they are relatively . stable.

Operationally, reactions 23 and 24 can be carried out in the same reactor (one-stage process) or separately as a combination of two stoichiometric reactions (two-stage process). 1.3 Thus HPA-n combines the advantages of stoichiometric and catalytic oxida-

As the catalysts, either one-component or two- and multicomponent systems are used. The most important two-component system includes HPA-n and Pd-(II). Other two-component systems are also known, e.g., those including complexes of Pt, Ir, Ru, etc. 36

The thermodynamic condition for the occurrence of reactions 23 and 24 can be represented using redox potentials of the substrate, HPA-n, and dioxygen: $E(Red) \le E(HPA-n) \le E(O_2) = 1.23 \text{ V.}^3$ The redox potential E(HPA-n) is 0.7 V vs normal hydrogen electrode (NHE) for HPA-n with n = 1-4 at pH 1. 160 Hence the above condition fulfills for a wide variety of organic substrates as well as for many inorganic redox systems to be used as cocatalysts with HPA-n. Some other POM having similar properties, e.g., PMo₆W₆3-, can also be used for this purpose. 11

2. Homogeneous Oxidation

One-Component HPA-n System. A range of hydrocarbons can be homogeneously oxidized with HPA-n as a catalyst under mild conditions. HPA-ncatalyzes the oxidation of alkanes to oxygenates by O₂. Arzamaskova et al. 161 and Geletii and Shilov 162 reported the oxidation of alkanes by HPA-6 under mild conditions in the presence Ru(III), Ir (III), 161 and Pt(II). 162 More recently Lyons et al. 163 have oxidized alkanes by O₂ with HPA-n as one-component catalyst. For example, propane is oxidized in an AcOH-H₂O solution in the presence of HPA-n at 150 °C to give a mixture of isopropyl alcohol and acetone in 42% and 52% selectivity, respectively 163 (eq 25). The

$$C_3H_8 + O_2 \rightarrow$$

 $CH_3CH(OH)CH_3 + CH_3COCH_3$ (25)

mixed-addenda HPA-n are more efficient catalysts than the all-molybdenum heteropolyanions. Other types of POM are also active, e.g., a trisubstituted Keggin anion PW4Fe2NiO377-.164 As shown by Mizuno et al., 165 this polyanion also catalyzes the oxidation of cyclohexane, adamantane, cyclohexene, and ethylbenzene. Neumann et al. 100 reported that a new Ru3+-substituted POM, (WZnRu2)(OH)(H2O)-(ZnW₂O₃₄)₂11−, catalyzes the hydroxylation of alkanes

Many synthetically attractive oxidations of hydrocarbons have been developed to date. For example, highly efficient dehydrogenations with HPA-2 in CH2 CICH: Cl tetraglyme solution have been reported by Neumann et al. 167 Thus reaction 26 vields 98% anthracene (70°C, 16h).

The HPA-2-catalyzed dehydrogenation of α-terpinene to p-cymene in acetonitrile solution was found to be zero order in α-terpinene, first order in dioxygen, and second order in HPA-2 158 168 On the basis of these kinetic results and spectroscopic data, a reaction scheme was formulated. The scheme involves the formation of a stable substrate-catalyst complex in the catalyst reduction stage (eq 23) and a u-peroxo catalyst intermediate in the catalyst reoxidation stage (eq 24) where dioxygen is reduced in a four-electron redox reaction. However the above kinetic evidence may not be sufficient to support the u-peroxo catalyst intermediate.

Oxidation of 2-methylnaphthalene to quinone (eq 27) is a step of the vitamin K₃ synthesis. In industry

it is carried out with highly toxic CrO3 as a stoichiometric oxidant with a low yield (~50%). With HPAn, we have succeeded to carry out the catalytic oxidation in AcOH-H2O solution at 120-140 °C with 82% selectivity at 78% conversion. 169

Gorodetskaya et al. 170 reported oxidative bromination of a range of aromatics catalyzed by HPA-n with HBr as a brominating agent and O₂ as a terminal oxidant. More recently Neumann et al. 171 reported the oxidative bromination of phenols in the para position (eq 28) in a homogeneous HPA-2-CH2CICH2-Cl-tetraglyme system with a remarkably high 99% yield (20°C, 5 h).

Ishii et al. 172 have studied a number of oxidations with O2 in the presence of an aldehyde, e.g., 2-methylpropanal, as a sacrificial reductant and (NH₄)₅H₄-PMo₆V₆O₄₀ as a catalyst in dichloroethane solution. (The addition of aldehydes is a well-known method to promote the liquid-phase free-radical oxidation of organic compounds by O_Z many metal complexes, e.g., Co*, Mn**, Cu**, Fe**, etc., can initiate such reactions. ¹⁷⁹) Thus the epoxidation of olefins proceeds at 25 °C with a very high selectivity of 81–100% (eq. 23).

epoxide (+ RCOOH) (29)

A carboxylic acid as a cooxidation product is also formed. In addition, the Baeyer-Villiger oxidation of cyclic ketones to lactones was accomplished with 78–87% selectivity by using benzaldehyde as the sacrificial aldehyde (25° C, 20h., 1 atm O_J). These reactions may be synthetically useful if the carboxylic acid is a useful product, provided a less harmful solvent instead of CH₂CCH₂Cl is employed.

Mizuno et al. 174 reported that the selective epoxidation of olefins by Q_c in the presence of an aldehyde is also catalyzed at 25 °C by transition metal-substituted 12 tungstophosphates, PW₁Q₂M**, where $M = C_0$. Mn, Fe, Cu, or Nl, whose activity decreases in that order. The order of the effectiveness of the aldehydes is: pivalaldehyde > isobutyraldehyde > butyraldehyde > butyraldehyde > butzyladydehyde > butzyladydehyde > benzaldehyde. The catalydric activity of POMs is solvent dependent. Thus the activity of POMs is solvent dependent. Thus the activity of POMs is coercised to the series: CH₂|₂ > CH₂C|₂ > 1.2C₂H₁C|₂ > CH₂C|₃ > CH₂C|₃ > DMF > DMSO. POM-catalyzed co-oxidative epoxidation of olefins with Q_2 in the presence of aldehyde apparently proceeds by a radical-chain mechanism. $^{1/2}$ $^{1/2}$ $^{1/2}$ $^{1/2}$

A variety of oxygenates, e.g., aldehydes, ketones, phenols, etc., can be oxidized with HPA-n under mildi conditions with very good yields. Brégeault et al.¹⁷⁷ reported the oxidative cleavage of cyclic ketones. For example, the cleavage of 2-methylcychoexanone is catalyzed by HPA-4 in aqueous solution to yield 97% of ketoacid (60°°C, 8 h) (eq. 30). HPA-reatalyzed

oxidation of cyclohexanone to adipic acid was studied as an alternative to the industrial nitric acid oxidation. The reaction was found to be solvent dependent, aqueous acetic acid being the best solvent, yielding 50% adipic acid together with 19% glutaric and 3% succinic acids at 95% cyclohexanone conversion (HPA 4 1 atm O₂ 70°C, 7h). Moreover, adipic acid was stable to degradation by HPA- nO_2 system. The advantage of this system, compared to the nitric acid oxidation, is less corrosion and no nitric oxides evolved. However the selectivity to adipic acid is still not high enough.

Ishii et al. 12 studied the oxidation of aldehydes to carboxylic acds with the use of the NH₄+ salt of HPA-6 as a catalyst (eq. 31). The reaction proceeds under very mild conditions (25 °C, 1 h) in dichlorothane with 96–100% selectivity at 60–78% aldehyde conversion.

Neumann et al. ¹⁷⁶ and ourselves ^{173, 180} reported oxidations of alkylphenols. The oxidation of 23.5 trimethylphenol (TMP) to trimethylbenzoquinone (TMBO) (eq 32) is of practical interest as a step to synthesize vitamin E. This reaction yields TMPO with 85% selectivity at 100% TMP conversion (HPA-4 ACOH-HA, 50°C). ¹⁷⁰

The oxidative coupling of 2,6-dialkylphenols to diphenoquinones (eq 33) catalyzed by copper amine complexes is used for the synthesis of antioxidants.

In this reaction, HPA-nshows a higher activity than copper complexes. The oxidative coupling proceeds in H₂O, AcCH-H₂O, or MeCH-H₂O as solvents at 25–50 °C under O₂ pressure of 1–5 atm. Diphenoquinones, insoluble under these conditions, can be readily isolated from the reaction mixture by crystallization. Thus, 2Z.66-tetra-tert-butyldiphenoquinones have been obtained in a nearly 100% yield. The catalyst can be recycled without loss of its activity. 150

Oxidation of sulfur compounds can be efficiently carried out with HPA-n. For example, the oxidation of H2S to sulfur 181 and thioethers to sulfoxides and sulfones 182 proceeds with nearly 100% yield. Harrup and Hill 183 have reported POM-based catalytic $systems = ZnPW_{11}O_{39}^{5-}$, $SiW_{11}O_{39}^{8-}$, $ZnSiW_{11}O_{39}^{6-}$, NaP5W30O11014-, etc.-for the selective aerobic oxidation of H2S in aqueous solution to yield a high purity (>99.5%) sulfur. Selective oxidation of tetrahydrothiophene to the corresponding sulfoxide by O2 was achieved in high selectivity (>99%) at 95 °C in the presence of HPA-2 as catalyst. 184 A range of POMs catalyze the selective oxidation of thioethers to the corresponding sulfoxides by tert-butyl hydroperoxide at 25°C, HPA-2being particularly selective (>99.9%). 185 A mechanism, including outer-sphere electron transfer from thioether to POM, is suggested. 185

Another interesting field is the application of HPA-n redox catalysis for environmentally benign delignifying wood pulp. ¹⁸⁰ Lignin—a complex polymer derived from aromatic alcohols—is, besides cellulose, one of the main constituents of wood. Delignification is a step in manufacturing paper. Currently, it is typically done by treatment of the pulp by chlorine at a low pH, which poses a great environmental concern. Weinstock, Hill et al. ¹⁸⁰ have developed a new method of removing residual lignin from wood pulp consisting of oxidative degradation of lignin by POMs, e.g., HPA-2 followed by separation of bleached pulp and reoxidation of the reduced POM by a nonpolluting oxidant, e.g., air, O_Z H_zO_Z etc. The process can be represented by eqs 23 and 24 where Re dis now the pulp and O_X is the bleached pulp. The net reaction is the selective oxidative removal of lignin from wood yielding only high quality cellulose, CO_Z and H_zO_X

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{wood (cellulose} + \text{lignin}) + \text{O}_2 \!\rightarrow\! \\ \text{cellulose} + \text{CO}_2 \!+ \text{H}_2 \!\text{O} \end{array}$$

As such, the method allows production of a paperquality bleached pulp and is claimed to be an effective alternative to the chlorine bleaching.

Two-Component System HPA- \bar{n} + Pd(II). The two-component redox system HPA-n + Pd(II). We sha attracted considerable attention. A wide variety of stoichiometric oxidations of organic compounds (RH2), e.g., ofelins, alcohols, arenes, etc., by Pd(II) can be carried out catalytically with the use of HPA-n as a cocatalyst and Q_c as an oxidant's 487-88 (eq 34).

$$RH_2 + {}^1/O_2 \rightarrow P + H_2O$$
 (34)

Generally, such reactions proceed via a stepwise redox mechanism (eq 35), 13 It is analogous to the

Wacker-type oxidation with $CuCl_z$ - $PdCl_z$ as the catalyst. But the HPA-n+ $Pd(\Pi)$ catalyst can work in the absence of or at a very low concentration of Cl^- ions. Consequently, it has the advantage of being higher selective and less corrosive.¹

Most interesting is the application of the HPA-n + Pd(II) system for Wacker-type oxidation of olefins (eq 36):

$$RCH=CH_2+{}^1/_2O_2\rightarrow RCOCH_3 \qquad (36)$$

The Wacker process is industrially employed for manufacturing acetaldelyde from ethylene and actione from propylene. 88° The CuCl₂ + PdCl₂ redox system is used as a catalyst. However, this process has several drawbacks such as formation of chlorinated byproducts and strong corrosion of the reaction vessel. So the development of chloride-free coxidants to replace CuCl₂ has long been a challenge. Matveev Lieb 87° proposed the use of HPA-nas chloride-free oxidant in the Wacker reaction. The exidation of ethylene can be represented by egs 37°–38.

$$C_2H_4 + Pd(II) + H_2O \rightarrow$$

 $CH_3CHO + Pd(O) + 2H^+$ (37)

$$Pd(O) + HPA-n + 2H^{+} \rightarrow Pd(II) + H_{2}(HPA-n)$$
 (38)

$$H_2(HPA-n) + \frac{1}{2}O_2 \rightarrow HPA-n + H_2O$$
 (39)

Table 7. Catalyst Solutions for Wacker Oxidation of Ethylene to Acetaldehyde¹⁵⁷

catalytica's system		CuCl ₂ + PdCl ₂ system	
Pd(II)	0.1 mM 5-25 mM	Pd(II)	10 mM 2 M
PMo ₁₀ V ₂ O ₄₀ 5-	озм	CuCl ₂	1 M

Catalytica ¹⁵⁷ has recently developed new technology for the Wacker oxidation of ethylene and higher olefins with the use of the HPA-n + Pd(II) system. In order to enhance the reaction rate and stabilize Pd(II) in solution, the reaction is still carried out in the presence of Cl⁻ ions, but at a very low concentration, much lower than in the conventional Wacker process (Table 7). In Catalytica's process, over £5% of the production of chlorinated byproducts is eliminated, decreasing to less than QO1% yield on ethylene. The practical production of aqueous HPA-n, for use at large scale as well as in the laboratory, and the reoxidation of aqueous reduced HPA-n by O₂ has been described. ¹⁵⁰

Multicomponent Systems. Three-component redox system, including HPA-n. hydroquinone (HQ),
and Pd(II), was found to be an efficient homogeneous
catalyst for Wacker-type oxidation of alkenes, ^{50, 162}
In this system, HPA-n smoothly oxidizes HQ to
benzoquinone: the latter is known¹ to rapidly oxidize
Pd(O) to Pd(II), thus greatly enhancing the overall
reaction rate. Addition of Cu(II) to the HPA-n+Pd
(II) redox system can also benefit Wacker-type oxidation ⁵⁰⁵ (see below).

Pd(II) + HPA-n is an efficient homogeneous catalyst for the oxidative coupling of arenes (ArH) which is a useful route to the synthesis of biphenyl derivatives. For a review, see ref 194. Hg(II) is often

employed as a promoter in the coupling of alkylbenzenes to improve activity and selectivity to 4.4 isomers. Recently the oxidative coupling of methyl benzoate catalyzed by $Pd(OAc)_2 + HPA-n$, yielding 22-biphenic acid dimethyl ester with unusually high electivity (80%), has been reported. For An orthocyclopalladated intermediate is suggested to be responsible for this. Addition of $Hg(OAc)_2$ increased greatly the conversion of methyl benzoate without impairing the selectivity to the 2Z-isomer.

3. Biphasic Oxidation

The advantage of biphasic systems is that they combine a catalytic reaction and product separation in one unit, allowing difficult separation problem to be avoided. Like in acid catalysis discussed earlier, polyoxometalates can be profitably used as catalysts for oxidation in biphasic systems.

Matveev et al. ¹⁹⁶ reported two-stage oxidation of 2-methyl-1-naphthol to menadione in a high yield with space-separated steps (eqs 40 and 41). Step 40

OH + HPA-n +
$$m^{1/4}$$
 H₂O ---
$$m^{1/4}$$
 + H_m(HPA-n) (40)

$$H_m(HPA-n) + (m/4)O_2 \rightarrow HPA-n + (m/2)H_2O$$
 (41)

is carried out in a water—hydrocarbon two-phase system at 50 °C with 89% yield of menadione at a 100% naphthol conversion. This is a promising alternative to the conventional synthesis of vitamin K₃ by oxidizing 2methylnaphthalene with CrO₂ 2Methyl-1-naphthol can be produced in a high yield by a heterogeneously catalyzed gas-phase alkylation of naphthalene by methand.

We in have developed the efficient one-stage oxidation of TMP to yield 84% TMBQ at a 100% TMP conversion in a two-phase system at 50 °C and 1 atm O₂ pressure (eq 32). The catalyst (lower) phase is a HPA-4 solution in AcOH-H₂O. The upper phase is a TMP + TMBQ solution in a hydrocarbon solvent, e.g., heptane, benzene, etc.

Monfiler et al. EG reported the biphasic Wacker oxidation of 1-decene to 2-decanone at 80 °C with excellent yield (98%) and practically no double-bond migration (eq 42). In this case, the catalyst (lower)

phase is a three-component system, containing Pd-(II), HPA- \hat{G} and \hat{G} u(II) in an aqueous solution, where \hat{G} u(II) is suggested to promote the Pd reoxidation. $\hat{\beta}$ -Cyclodextrin as a phase-transfer catalyst is used; apparently it transfers 1-decene to the aqueous phase by a host-guest interaction. However, no evidence on the integrity of $\hat{\beta}$ -cyclodextrin during the reaction course was provided.

4. Heterogeneously Catalyzed Oxidation

Heterogenized HPA-n catalysts have attracted considerable interest. Both liquid- and gas-phase reactions have been studied.

Liquid-Phase Oxidation. Neumann et al. ¹⁸⁸ reported the liquid-phase oxidative dehydrogenation of benzylic alcohols and amines catalyzed by carbon-supported HPA n in toluene at 100°C with excellent yields (94–100%). The oxidation of benzylic alcohols to benzaldehydes (eq 43) proceeds without overoxidation to carboxylic acids. Reaction 44) proceeds via the oxidative dehydrogenation of benzyl amine to imine. ArCH=NH, followed by the hydrolysis of the

imine to form benzaldehyde, and, finally, the interaction between the imine and benzaldehyde yields a Schiff base.

$$ArCH_2OH + {}^{1}/_{2}O_2 \rightarrow ArCHO + H_2O$$
 (43)
 $ArCH_2NH_2 + O_2 \rightarrow ArCH = NCH_2Ar$ (44)

Jansen⁸¹ applied HPA-n (n = 2, 3) supported on a variety of chemically modified carbon supports as catalysts for the oxidation of TMP to TMBQ (eq 32)

in polar media. Ishii et al. 199 studied the aerobic oxidation of various organic compounds catalyzed by a carbonsupported (10%) NH₄+ salt of HPA-n with the average composition (NH₄)₅H₆PMo₄V₈O₄₀. This catalyst showed high catalytic activity for the oxidative dehydrogenation of benzylic and allylic alcohols to the corresponding aldehydes and ketones (46-92% yield) in toluene. The catalyst can be recycled without loss of its activity. In contrast, the nonsupported catalyst was inactive for the same oxidation under the same conditions. The enhancement of catalytic activity by supporting POM on the active carbon is believed to be due to the higher concentration of substrates and oxygen by the adsorption in the vicinity of the active site. In addition, the active carbon could be a good mediator of the electron transfer in redox steps involved in the catalytic process. It should be noted, however, that the supported catalyst has greater surface area compared to the bulk POM, which may be the major reason for the greater activity of the supported system. Other aerobic oxidations, such as the oxidation of phenols and amines, have also been examined. 199 In the case of reactions in polar media a significant leaching of POM from the active carbon was observed. Thus in the oxidation of TMP to TMBO (eq 32) in AcOH-H₂O, 7% of POM supported on active carbon eluted from the support in the solvent, which might give rise to the homogeneously catalyzed reaction. Although the recycled catalyst showed almost the same performance as the original one, it is not sufficient to exclude the homogeneous reaction. The best way to examine the role of homogeneous catalysis in a liquid-solid system is to check the activity of the filtrate obtained at the reaction temperature.

Gas-Phase Oxidation. Attempts have been made to apply a solid two component $Pd(\Pi) + HPA-n$ system in the gas-phase Wacker oxidation and related reactions. These reactions have usually been carried out in the presence of steam. Mechanistically, they can be considered as pseudohomogeneous, i.e., occurring in the liquid catalyst phase entrapped in a support. As a support, silica is often used, which is relatively inert toward POM. Real mechanisms, however, may be more complex, but little data is available so far. There are two main problems in applying this system to the gas-phase oxidation: (1) the reoxidation of the catalyst by $O_{\mathbb{C}}$ proceeds much slower than in solution and (2) the catalyst is rapidly deactivated probably due to aggregation of palladium.

The heterogeneous oxidation of butene to methyl ethyl ketone (eq 45) is a challenging goal.^{200,201}

$$I_1$$
-C₄H₈ + 1 / O_2 \rightarrow CH₃CH₂COCH₃ (45)

Stobbe-Kreemers et al. \$^{50} have studied this reaction catalyzed by the solid Pd(II) + HPA-n system at 70 °C. Not only HPA-n but also their Cu^{2r} , Ni^{2r} , Pd^{2r} and Cs^{r} salts have been used. A strong catalyst deactivation was observed: the conversion of butene dropped 10 fold from 60% to 6% after 1 h on stream, while the selectivity decreased less dramatically, only from 98% to 90%.

Recently, Nowinska et al. ²²Feported quite a stable activity in the oxidation of ethylene to acetaldehyde with a Mn²-promoted catalyst, (PdCl₂ + Mn²+HPA-2/SiO₂ After 50 h on stream at 70 °C, a constant 98% selectivity at 80% ethylene conversion was observed. Without palladium, HPA-2 supported on silica or r-alumina catalyzes the direct gas-phase oxidation of ethylene to acetic acid at 230 °C with about 50% selectivity at 55% conversion, CO₂ as the major byproduct being formed. ²³³

Valkova et al.²⁰⁴ reported that (PdCl₂ + HPA-G) SIO₂ catalyzes the oxidation of methane and other alkannes by O₂ at 300 °C. Thus CH₄ is converted to CH₂Cl and CO₂ with selectivities of 20 and 25%, respectively. No reaction occurs without PdCl₂ HPA-G is suggested to mediate the reoxidation of reduced palladium by O₂. The relative oxidation rate increases in the series of alkanes: CH₄ (0.14) C.2H₆ (1.0) < C.3H₆ (2.0) < i-C.3H₁₀ (2.3) or C.3H₁₀ (3.4) < cyclopentane (6.8) = cyclohexane (6.8) < n·C₂H₁₂

The oxidation of CO to CO₂ catalyzed by supported Pd(II) + HPA-*n* catalysts was reported by Pavlova et al.²⁰⁶ (eq 46):

$$CO + \frac{1}{2}O_2 \rightarrow CO_2$$
 (46)

The $(1.5\% \text{ Pd}(II) + 7.5\% \text{ HPA-}n).SiO_2$ catalyst was found to be more active than Pd IIO_2 and Pd.SiO_2 at $SO ^{\circ}C$. But eventually the catalyst was irreversibly deactivated.

5. Mechanism

Despite the importance and versatility of redox reactions catalyzed by HPA-n, there is only limited information about their mechanisms. HPA-n in solution is an extremely complex system, and the higher the n value, the more complex the system. The HPA-n solutions contain a great number of polyanions, their positional isomers as well as monomeric metallospecies. 3, 157 Figure 9 shows the 31P NMR spectrum for HPA-4 aqueous solution, which was used as the catalyst for oxidation of TMP to TMBO. 197 As seen, this system contains heteropolyanions with one, two, three, and four Vions. Moreover, each type is represented by an array of positional isomers. Such a complexity makes mechanistic studies very difficult. Much work has been done on the characterization of the HPA-n solutions, going back to the studies by Souchay, 21,22 Pope, 19 and Matveev 1,3 and co-workers. Recently Pettersson et al.207 have fully

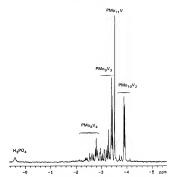


Figure 9. 162 MHz ³¹P NMR spectrum for 0.2 M Na₅H₂ PMo₅V₄O₄₀ aqueous solution (pH 2.5, 1% H₃PO₄ as external reference).

characterized the HPA-2 solutions by potentiometry and ^{3IP} and ^{5IV} NMR. This is a relatively simple and stable system, which is used in Catalytica's new technology for the Wacker oxidation of olefins. ¹⁵⁷ Yet it consists of five positional α-isomers and some β-isomers of PMα_DV₂O_D^{*}.

As stated earlier, the overall catalytic process can be represented schematically by steps 25 and 24 The question is what is the mechanism of these steps? What kind of active species is involved? In step 23, two types of active species can be considered—the monomeric VO₂* cation (and \(\alpha\) complexes thereal) and heteropolyanions. The VO₂* cation is formed via the dissociation of parent HPA-n (eq 47). It is likely for HPA-n with higher n and in strongly acdice media. There is evidence that VO₂* is the active species in the oxidation of TMP (ArCH) to TMBQ (eq 32). The reaction mechanism can be represented by eq 477–52 so

$$HPA-n \rightarrow VO_{2}^{+} + HPA-(n-1)$$
 (47)

$$VO_2^+ + ArOH + H^+ \xrightarrow{slow} ArO' + VO^{2+} + H_sO$$
 (48)

$$ArO' \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow TMBQ$$
 (49)

$$VO^{2+} + HPA-n + H_2O \rightarrow VO_2^+ + H(HPA-n) + H^+$$
 (50)

or

$$VO^{2+} + HPA-(n-1) + H^{+} \rightarrow H(HPA-n)$$
 (51)

$$4H(HPA-n) + O_2 \rightarrow 4HPA-n + 2H_2O$$
 (52)

E = -0.05 V

 $E = 2.81 \, \text{V}$

Table 8 One- vs. Two-Electron Oxidation of t-Bu(Ph)CHOH#,210

oxidant	PdCl ₂	Ce4+	$S_2O_8^{2-}$	VO_2^+	PMo ₆ V ₆ O ₄₀ 9-
ketone, %	100	6	6	11	67
PhCHO, %		94	89	63	33

a Yields (mol %) on converted alcohol; a little PhCOOH also

The rate-determining step is probably one-electron oxidation of the phenol by VO2+ to form phenoxyl radical and VO2+ (eq 48). Subsequent transformations of the phenoxyl radical give TMBQ. VO2+ either interacts with HPA-n by electron transfer (eq 50) or enters the lacunary species HPA-(n-1) (eq 51) to form the reduced heteropolyanion H(HPA-n). Eventually, H(HPA-n) is oxidized by O_2 (eq 52) by a multielectron-transfer mechanism which will be discussed later. It should be noted that the free VO2+ ion is not oxidized by O2 in acidic solution.

Interestingly, the tungsten analogs of HPA-n, $PW_{12-n}V_nO_{40}^{(3+n)-}$, which are much less labile than $PMo_{12-n}V_nO_{40}^{(3+n)-}$ in aqueous solution, ²⁰⁸ showed a very low activity in the oxidation of TMP 180 as well as in some other reactions, e.g., in oxidation of H2S.209 A possible reason for this is that in the case of $P\hat{W}_{12-n}V_n$, reactions 47 and 51 are too slow.

Besides VO2+, parent heteropolyanions can be the active species in step 233 It is likely in the case of more stable polyanions with fewer V5+ ions (e.g., HPA-2). Since the heteropolyanions are multielectron oxidants, they can, in principle, react via a multielectron-transfer mechanism. In this sense, the oxidation of a test alcohol t-Bu(Ph)CHOH is of interest²¹⁰ (eq 53).

$${}^{\bullet}$$
C(CH₃)₃+PhCHO $\stackrel{\leftarrow}{\leftarrow} {}^{-1e^{-}}$
PhCH(OH)C(CH₃)₃ $\stackrel{\rightarrow}{\rightarrow} {}^{-2e^{-}}$ PhC(=O)C(CH₃)₃ (53)

With two-electron oxidants, e.g., Pd(II), this alcohol gives a ketone with the same carbon backbone. With one-electron oxidants, e.g., Ce4+ and persulfate, the C-C bond deaves to vield benzaldehyde and tertbutyl radical as the primary products (Table 8). It is seen that VO₂+ reacts as one-electron oxidant, as expected, vielding 63% benzaldehyde. In contrast, HPA-6 predominantly reacts as a two-electron oxidant, giving the ketone in 67% vield; simultaneously a one-electron oxidation, probably by VO2+ ions, also takes place to give benzaldehyde (33%). This may indicate a direct involvement of heteropolyanions in reaction 53

Efforts have been made to clarify the mechanism of oxidation of the reduced form of HPA-n ("blue") by O₂ in solution (eq 24).3 159 However, the complexity of the system makes conclusions rather speculative. Below are given redox reactions involved in the reduction of dioxygen in an acidic aqueous solution together with the corresponding redox potentials (versus NHE, pH O).211 These data allow to make a thermodynamic assessment as to how the oxidation of bues may proceed.

 $O_2 + e^- + H^+ \rightarrow HO_2$

$$O_2 + 2e^- + 2H^+ \rightarrow H_2O_2$$
 $E = 0.68 \text{ V}$
 $O_2 + 4e^- + 4H^+ \rightarrow 2H_2O$ $E = 1.23 \text{ V}$
 $HO_2 + e^- + H^+ \rightarrow H_2O_2$ $E = 1.44 \text{ V}$
 $H_2O_2 + e^- + H^+ \rightarrow HO + H_2O$ $E = 0.71 \text{ V}$
 $H_2O_2 + 2e^- + 2H^+ \rightarrow 2H_2O$ $E = 1.76 \text{ V}$
 $HO + e^- + H^+ \rightarrow H_2O$ $E = 2.81 \text{ V}$

It can be seen that O2 is a rather poor one-electron oxidant. One-electron oxidation of the reduced HPA-n (E = 0.7 V) with O_2 to form HO_2 radical is highly unfavorable thermodynamically. However two-, three-, or four-electron oxidations are feasible. Consequently, the HPA-1 blue, PMo11V4+O404-, is practically not oxidized by O2 under mild conditions in solution. The all-molybdenum HPA-0 blue is not oxidized either. For these reasons, HPA-n with n >1 are used as catalysts for liquid-phase oxidations. Note, however, that the reoxidation of HPA-0 and HPA-1 by O2 proceeds readily at higher temperatures, >200 °C, which allows them to be applied under such conditions for gas-phase oxidations, e.g., the oxidation of methacrolein and oxidative dehydrogenation of isobutyric acid. 28 10 12

Apparently, the mechanism of step 24 depends on the degree of reduction of the blue. The oxidation of a deeply reduced blue ($n \ge 4$, all the V present reduced to V4+) follows a simple kinetics: first order in both the blue and O2212 In the presence of a radical scavenger, i-PrOH, no acetone was found. This may indicate that no free radicals are formed during the reaction. (However, the formation of short lived free radicals is not excluded.) Hence a fourelectron-transfer mechanism was proposed, including the formation of a complex between the blue and O2 followed by a stepwise four-electron transfer therein (eq 54). 212 Each electron-transfer step is probably accompanied by the protonation of the oxidant.

$$H_m(HPA-n) + O_2 \rightarrow H_m(HPA-n) \cdots O_2 + \frac{(4e^-)}{slow} + H_{m-4}(HPA-n) + 2H_2O$$
 (54)

In contrast, the oxidation of a weakly reduced blue (by less than one electron per Keggin unit) shows a more complex behavior.213 This system is adequate to a real one-stage process. For simplicity, it can be considered as one consisting of two species: oneelectron blue, H(HPA-n), and HPA-n; [H(HPA-n)] (-[H(HPA-n)] + [HPA-n] << 1. Under such conditions, the rate of oxidation of blues is in the sequence: HPA-2 < HPA-3 > HPA-4 > HPA-6. In the case of the HPA-3blue, at a constant pH and ionic strength, the reaction was found to be third-order in $H(HPA\cdot n)$, minus second order in the $HPA\cdot n$ and first order in O_8 . The test with I-PrOH clearly showed the formation of free radicals. On these bases, a mechanism was proposed, which is represented for the $HPA\cdot S$ blue by eqs 55-58

$$2PMo_9V_2^{5+}V^{4+} \rightarrow PMo_9V^{5+}V_2^{4+} + PMo_9V_3^{5+}$$
 (55)

$$PMo_9V^{5+}V_2^{4+} + PMo_9V_2^{5+}V^{4+} \rightarrow PMo_9V_3^{4+} + PMo_9V_3^{5+}$$
 (56)

$$PMo_9V_3^{4+} + O_2 + 3H^+ \xrightarrow{(3r-)} slow$$

 $PMo_9V_3^{5+} + H_2O + HO (57)$

$$PMo_9V_2^{5+}V^{4+} + HO + H^+ \rightarrow PMo_9V_9^{5+} + H_9O$$
 (58)

In steps 55 and 53 a three-electron blue is formed by the fast electron exchange between one-electron blues. Then the three-electron blue is slowly oxidized by Q_2 via a stepwise transfer of three electrons from the blue to Q_2 accompanied by the protonation of the oxidant, to form HO radical, which is finally trapped by any V^{4*} species, Z^{18}

Further, it was found that the free radicals generated in step 24 can, to some extent, affect the selectivity of the one-stage catalytic process. ²⁴⁸ But obviously, they will do no harm in the case of the two-stage process.

Several types of intermediate complexes between a reduced POM and Q₂ have been suggested. ¹⁹⁸²E¹⁸²E¹⁸²As HPA-n is labile, easily exchanging oxygen atoms in the polyanion with aqueous solution, ²⁹⁰we proposed the formation of an adduct with the direct bonding of Q₂ to the V⁴⁺ ion in the HPA-n blue by incorporating Q₂ into a coordination vacancy at the V⁴⁺ ion. ²¹⁵Neumann and Levin ¹⁹⁸ suggested a µ-percox intermediate involving two polyanions and dioxygen in the HPA-2 reoxidation. For tungsten blues, e.g., SiW₂Q₃T^{*}, which are inert toward oxygen exchange, an association of Q₂ with POM through the terminal or bridging oxygen atom in the Keggin structure, forming an ozonide-type adduct, or a 7-coordinate percox oniolety was suggested. ²¹⁵

A mechanism involving a covalently bonded metaloxygen intermediate would lead to O2 incorporation into the polyanion. Recently Duncan and Hill²¹⁶ quantified by 17O NMR the incorporation of 17O from $^{17}O_2$ in the oxidation of reduced $\dot{W}_{10}O_{32}^{4-}$, $P_2W_{18}O_{62}^{6-}$, and HPA-2 in CH-CN solution. In the case of tungsten POMs, no 17O incorporation into polyanion was found; nor did 17O exchange occur between the POMs and solvent. All the 17O is found in H2O and H₂O₂ formed in the reaction. These data rule out the formation of covalently bonded metal—oxygen intermediates in the case of tungsten POM and are consistent with an outer-sphere electron transfer between O₂ and reduced POM. 216 Such a mechanism is, indeed, likely from the thermodynamic point of view for POMs such as H₂W₁₂O₄₀6-, W₁₀O₃₂4-, $SiW_{12}O_{40}^{4-}$, etc., having the redox potential $E \approx 0$ V.215 In contrast, the case for HPA-2 is not clear as that for tungsten POMs. For HPA-2 the 17O incorporation was measured in the HPA-2-catalyzed oxidation of 1,3 cyclohexadiene with 17Os. In this system, some 17O did incorporate into the POM as well as the 17O exchange between the POM and solvent took place. The total POM enrichment represented 6% of all 17O products. Kinetic measurements indicated that the 17O enrichment mainly occurred by the ¹⁷O exchange between the product H₂ ¹⁷O and POM. These data, too, may be considered as inconsistent with a covalent-bonded metal-oxygen intermediate.216 However, if the oxidation in question were a radical chain process, reactions 23 and 24 would play only a minor role in the overall O consumption. In this case, indeed, the ¹⁷O exchange between POM and the product H217O would contribute the most to the ¹⁷O enrichment of POM regardless of the mechanism of reaction 24.

Kozhevnikov and Kholdeeva²¹¹ have studied the kinetics of a number of one-electron reactions between tungsten POMs or blues and various reductants or oxidants, respectively, including the oxidation of SIW $_{\rm E}O_{80}^{+}$ and PW $_{\rm E}O_{80}^{+}$ blues with $O_{\rm D}$ by a stopped-flow technique. The reaction rates were found to be in good agreement with Marcus theory for outer-sphere electron transfer, which supports this mechanism for the oxidation of SIW and PW blues by $O_{\rm D}$. Hiskia and Papaconstantinou²¹¹¹studied kinetics and mechanism of the oxidation of reduced tungsten POMs, such as $SIW_{\rm E}O_{80}^{+}$, $H_{\rm E}W_{\rm E}O_{80}^{+}$, and $P_{\rm E}W_{\rm B}O_{80}^{+}$, with dioxygen, with dioxygen

In conclusion, HPA-n is the efficient and versatile catalyst system for oxidizing by O₂. Several promising processes based on the HPA-n catalysis have been developed, e.g., the Wacker oxidation of olefins. However, many mechanistic details are yet to be disclosed.

B. Oxidation with Hydrogen Peroxide

It has long been known that tungsten and molydenum compounds are efficient catalysts for oxidations by hydrogen peroxide. ^{218,29} Tungsten and molybdenum POMs also catalyze various oxidations of organic substances by hydrogen peroxide, such as epoxidation of olefins, oxidation of alcohols, glycols, phenols, etc., in homogeneous or two phase systems. ^{16,154,20-225} Peroxo polyoxometalates have been shown to be the active intermediates in these reactions. ^{26,25-222}

1. Venturello-Ishii System

Two highly effective and mechanistically closely related catalyst systems relevant to POM-mediated hydroperoxide oxidation are of particular interest, namely, those developed by groups of Venturello and Ishii

Venturello et al. **\sigma 222** 281** 27 performed the epoxidation of alkenes (eq 59) in a biphasic system, e.g., CHCl₃~+ H₂O, at 60–70 °C with the use of diluted H₂O₂ (2–15%) and tungstate and phosphate ions as catalyst

precursors in the presence of a phase-transfer catalyst—quaternary ammonium cation (Q $^+$) with C_6-C_{18} alkyl groups.

$$RCH=CH_2 + H_2O_2 \longrightarrow RCH \longrightarrow CH_2 + H_2O$$
 (59)

In this system, a peroxo POM, {PO4[WO(O2)2]4}3-, analogous to the molybdenum peroxo POM first reported by Beiles et al., 228 was isolated and characterized. 222 This peroxo complex was found to be remarkably effective in stoichiometric as well as in catalytic biphasic oxidation of alkenes by H2O2 and was postulated to be the active oxygen-transfer agent in reaction 59. For example, the epoxidation of 1-octene with 15% H2O2 in the presence of {PO4[WO(O2)2]4}3- in a CH2CICH2CI-H2O system affords epoxyoctane in 89% yield (based on the initial H_2O_2) at a 100% H_2O_2 conversion (70 °C, 1.5h). The reaction is stereoselective: cis-hex-2-ene is converted solely into the cis-epoxide, while trans-hex-2-ene gives the trans-epoxide. 222 Likewise, but in a stronger acidic medium, the biphasic oxidation of alkenes produces water-soluble vicinal trans-glycols in 71-88% vield (60-70 °C, 1-4 h, 2-4% H₂O₂, pH 1.2-1.5). The glycols formed are present almost entirely in the aqueous phase and can be readily isolated from the reaction mixture.227

The anion $\{PO_k|WO(O_2)_d\}\}^{3}$ was characterized crystallographically $\{Figure 10\}$, \mathbb{Z}^2 it has the C_2 symmetry and consists of the central PO_k tetrahedron linked through its oxygen atoms to two pairs of edgesharing distorted pentagonal bipyramids $W(O_2)_kO_3$. Each tungsten atom is linked to two peroxo groups—one nonbridging $(\eta^2$ and the other bridging (η^2,η^2) —located in the equatorial plane of the pentagonal bipyramid.

IshiI et al. $^{2\times 2\times 2\times 2}$ demonstrated that oxidations of a wide variety of organic substrates with commercially available 35% H₂O₂ can be effectively performed in homogeneous phase or more often in a blyhasic system with the use of a catalyst comprising heteropoly acids PW or PMo and cetylpyridinium chloride, the latter providing phase-transfer function. For a review, see ref 224. The PW catalyst is usually superior to PMo. Tris-cortypyridinium salt of PW, $[x^*C_2H_2N^*(CH_2)_3(PW_{12}O_4)^{3\times}$ (CPW), is prepared by interacting PW with 3 equiv of cetylpyridinium chloride. This salt catalyzes the epoxidation of alkenes²²³ and allylic alcohols²³³ with H₂O₂ in a blyhasic system using CHCl₂ as the solvent, while



Figure 10. The structure of peroxo polyanion $\{PO_4[WO(O_2]_2]_4\}^{3-,222}$

α,β-unsaturated carboxylic acids are readily epoxidized in water at pH 6 to 7.234 sec-Alcohols and diols are dehydrogenated by the CPW-H2O2 system in tert-butyl alcohol to give the corresponding ketones in good yields.233 Primary alcohols are much less reactive under such conditions. However, α.ω-diols give lactones in fair yields.224 The CPW-H2O2 system is also efficient for oxidative cleavage of carbon-carbon bonds of vic-glycols and alkenes to vield carboxylic acids. 233 Other reactions, which can be readily carried out with this system include the conversion of internal alkynes to the corresponding α,β-epoxy ketones,236 allenes to α-alkoxy or α-hydroxy ketones, 237 amines to oximes and nitrones, 235 anilines to azoxy-, nitroso-, and nitrobenzenes232 and sulfides to sulfoxides and sulfones. 238

According to a schematic mechanism proposed by Ishii et al.²²⁴ the two-phase epoxidation of alkenes by hydrogen peroxide in the presence of PW12O403as the catalyst precursor proceeds as follows. An active peroxo POM is formed in the aqueous phase by interacting the Keggin heteropolyanion with hydrogen peroxide. With the phase-transfer catalyst, Q+, the peroxo POM is almost fully transferred into the organic phase because its Q+ salt is readily soluble in organic solvents. The reaction takes place preferentially in the organic phase via the oxygen atom transfer from the peroxo POM to the substrate. The peroxo POM is then regenerated at the interface by the interaction with H2O2. However, the nature of peroxo POM intermediates was not established in these studies.

In the recent years, the Venturello-Ishii chemistry has been investigated in detail by several groups. 230-249 These studies showed that the epoxidation of alkenes in the Venturello system and in the Ishii system includes nearly identical peroxo polyoxometalate intermediates despite the use of different catalysts precursors in the two systems. Csanyi and Jaky239 demonstrated that PW12 and PMo12, by the interaction with excess H2O2 in a two-phase system in the presence of a phase-transfer agent, decompose to form a variety of peroxo complexes including $\{PO_4[WO(O_2)_2]_4\}^{3-}$ and $\{PO_4[MoO(O_2)_2]_4\}^{3-}$, respectively, which are transferred into the organic phase. These authors suggested that the peroxo anions derived from PW12 and PMo12 are the catalytically active species in the biphasic epoxidation of olefins. Brégeault et al.240 studied the epoxidation of 1-octene by hydrogen peroxide in the CHCl3-H2O system in the presence of the heteropolyanions XM₁₂O₄₀n⁻ and $X_2M_{18}O_{62}^{m-}$ and isopolyanions $M_xO_v^{z-}$ (M = Mo^{6+} or W^{6+} ; $X = P^{5+}$, Si^{4+} , or B^{3+}) as precursors of catalytically active peroxo POM. The anions BW12O405-SiW₁₂O₄₀⁴⁻, and P₂W₁₈O₆₂⁶⁻ were inactive and, as shown by a number of spectroscopic methods, did not change their structure during the reaction. PMo12O403- exhibited a low activity. On the other hand, PW₁₂O₄₀3- exhibited a high activity (79% yield of epoxide based on 1-octene) when the catalytic system was prepared beforehand by interacting the heteropolyanion with H2O2 in aqueous solution in the absence of Q+ and 1-octene. When all the reagents



Figure 11. The structure of peroxo polyanion $\{HPO_4|WO(O_2)_2|_2\}^{2^-.241}$

were mixed simultaneously, no activity was observed. Tungstic acid. "H_MOv.", and H_2^W_1O_{20}." browed high activities regardless of the preparation method used, the yields being 76 and 67%, respectively. The Keggin heteropdyanions PM_1O_3/* were decomposed by excess H_Q.2 [H_2O_3]/M] = 30–355 mol finol) to form the percox POMs [FO_4]MO(O_2)_3/* and [M_2O_3/O_3/H_2O_3/*]. It was suggested that [PO_4]MO(O_3)_3/* is the acitive species responsible for the olefin epoxidation with the Keggin anions PM_1O_3/* in two-phase systems. 300

Later, 31P and 183W NMR study241 showed that several peroxo POMs of the composition $PW_iO_i^{z-}$ (x = 1-4) form in the aqueous $H_3PW_{12}O_{40}H_2O_2$ system, and these may well be the active species or their precursors in the olefin epoxidation by phase-transfer catalysis. The novel $\{HPO_4[WO(O_2)_2]_2^2\}^{2-}$ anion was studied in the crystalline state and in solution. The crystal structure of [(n-Bu)₄N]₂{HPO₄[WO(O₂)₂]₂} (Figure 11) is closely related to that of the Venturello complex $[(n-Bu)_4N]_3\{PO_4[WO(O_2)_2]_4\}$ (Figure 10). The two anions, $\{HPO_4[WO(O_2)_2]_2\}^{2-}$ and $\{PO_4[WO-PO_2]_2\}_2$ $(O_2)_2|_4$ 3-, include the $[W_2O_2(\mu-O_2)_2(O_2)_2]$ moiety as a principal building block. In the two-phase epoxidation of limonene by H₂O₂, tungsten species Q₃{PO₄- $[WO(O_2)_2]_4$ and $Q_2\{HPO_4[WO(O_2)_2]_2\}$ proved to be 30 times more active than the molybdenum analog, Q3{PO4[MoO(O2)2]4}.241 Another mechanistically important result is that the MO(O2)2 moieties in {PO4[MO(O2)2]4}3- are remarkably mobile in solution. Thus mixing solutions of {PO4[WO(O2)2]4}3- and {PO₄[MoO(O₂)₂]₄}³⁻ at room temperature results in the fast formation of mixed-addenda species {PO4-[Mo4-xWxO20]}3-.242 Thus, the whole array of peroxo species $PW_xO_y^{z-}$ (x = 1-4) is likely to exist in a fast equilibrium. This makes it difficult to identify the active species kinetically.

In the recent studies by Brégeault et al. ²⁴²⁻²⁸ and Griffith et al., ²⁴²⁻²⁸ in wide variety of new mono, di-, tri-, and tetranuclear tungsten and molybdenum percoo POMs with ¹/₂ η ¹-percoo moieties and various central groups—POa. PHOa. Pha.PO. SO4. ASO4, HASO4, CH.₂ASO₃, etc.—have been isolated and characterized by X-ray and tested in oxidations with H₂O₂. Schwendt et al. reported the synthesis and characterization of vanadium(V) percox o complexes (NH₂) IV₂O₃ PO₃ PO

Ballistreri et al. ²⁸⁸ and Hill et al. ²⁸⁹ have shown that the Venturello-Ishii epoxidation is first-order in both [PO4|WO(O₂)2₄)³⁻ and alkene. Hill et al. ²⁸⁹ obtained kinetic and spectroscopic evidence that two processes dominate during the reaction: a slow

epoxidation by oxygen atom transfer from the peroxo POM to alkene (eq. 60):

$$\{PO_4[WO(O_2)_2]_4\}^{3-}$$
 + alkene \rightarrow
 PW_4 PW₂, and PW_2 + epoxide (60)

followed by a rapid regeneration of $\{PO_n|WO[O_2]_n\}^{3-}$ with H_2O_2 . Catalyst deactivation as well as the use of chlorinated hydrocarbons as solvents have been mentioned as the major drawback to the Venturello—Ishii process.²⁶⁰

In alkene epoxidation catalyzed by transition metal complexes, the mechanism of the oxygen atom transfer from a peroxo complex to alkene is still a matter of debate. According to Mimoun, 256 the mechanism of the oxygen-to-alkene transfer from a side-bonded preproxo group involves a precoordination of the alkene to the metal center. Alternatively, Sharpless²⁵⁰ proposed a coordination of the alkene to one oxygen atom from the peroxo group, forming a three-center transition state. Although it is not easy to make a choice between the two, experimental results on monounclear peroxo complexes are in a better agreement with the Sharpless mechanism ^{25,250} This may well be the case with peroxo polyoxometalates, but no direct information is available.

Mechanistic aspects of the oxidation of N,N-benzylalkylamines to nitrones by $Q_3\{PO_4[MO(O_2)_2]_4\}$ (where M=Mo or W) have been studied.²⁵⁶

2. Other Polyoxometalate Systems

Polytungstometalates $[WM_3(H_2O)_2(XW_9O_{3d})_2]^{12-}$ (X = M = Zn or Co2+, which can be substituted by a variety of transition metal ions)257 proved to be promising oxidation catalysts. These anions contain two α-β-[XW₉O₃₄] 12- fragments of the Keggin-type polyanion XW12O406- from which a triad of edgesharing octahedra is removed. The two units are linked by four coplanar octahedrally coordinated and closely packed metal atoms. In contrast to Keggin anions, which are only stable in acidic solutions, these POMs are stable in the pH region from about 6 to about 10.257 Atoms in the M positions can be substituted by Mn2+, Mn3+, Fe2+, Fe3+, Co2+, Ni2+, Cu2+, Zn2+, Pd2+, Pt2+, V4+, etc., thus providing intriguing opportunities for catalyst design. Apparently, these POMs are stable not only to hydrolysis but also to degradation by H2O2, unlike the Keggin ones. Thus Khenkin and Hill258 reported that the [Fe4(PW9O34)2]10- anion was quite stable with respect to solvolysis by H2O2 it catalyzed the selective homogeneous epoxidation of alkenes in aqueous acetonitrile at 20 °C by H2O2.

According to Neumann et al., 200, 200 solvedytically stable disubstituted manganese(II) POM, [MZnMn₂, (H₂O)₂(ZnW₀O₂)₂]²⁰, is highly active catalyst for the epoxidation of alkenes and oxidation of alcohols by 30% H₂O₂ (only a small excess) in a biphasic system at ambient temperature, with very high selectivities (~99%) and hundreds to thousands of turnovers. Interestingly, trisubstituted POM, [WMn₃(H₂O)₂ (ZnW₀O₂)₂]²⁰, was significantly less efficient, followed by Zn²⁰ and Co²⁰ derivatives. The Rh²⁰ POM, [WZnRh²⁰,HO)₂(ZnW₀O₂)³ in significant selffective

as the disubstituted Mn²⁺ analog.²⁶¹ Other substrates, e.g. alkenols, diols, amines, etc., can be oxidized in such systems.²⁶²

POM-based solid catalysts for the epoxidation of alkenes have been reported. 233 These contain POM— $\{PO_d|WO(O_2)_d\}^{3\gamma}$ or |WZnMn₂($H_2O)_2$. $(ZnW_O_3)_d\}^{12\gamma}$ —immobilized on a silicate xerogel covalently modified with phenyl groups and quaternary ammonium groups. The catalysts epoxidize alkenes by 30% H_1O_2 at room temperature in the absence of an organic solvent.

The TI-substituted Keggin-type anions, PW₁,TiO₈ t^{-} , PW₁OTi $_{2}O_{30}^{-}$, etc., have been studied as catalysts for the epoxidation of alkenes with H₂O₂. The kinetic data obtained imply the involvement of HO radicals generated by the decomposition of H₂O₂. ²⁰⁴

Keggin-type mixed-addenda heteropolyanions containing $V^{\rm co}$ ions catalyze the oxidation of alkylaromatic compounds by 30% H $_2{\rm O}_2$ in AcOH at 80 °C to form the respective acetates or alcohols and aldehydes or ketones, HPA-2b being the most effective catalyst. ²⁵⁰ There is spectroscopic evidence that HPA-2is not degraded during the reaction. However, there is a significant decomposition of H $_2{\rm O}_2$ accompanying the oxidation of the alkyl aromatic substrates. The mechanism proposed includes the homolytic cleavage of percox ospectes at the vanadium atom of HPA-2 to form HO and HO $_2$ radicals, which react with the alkyl aromatic substrate to give the observed products, as represented by egs 61—65%

$$HPA-2 + H_2O_2 \rightarrow H(HPA-2) + HO_2$$
 (61)

$$H(HPA-2) + H_2O_2 \rightarrow HPA-2 + HO + H_2O$$
 (62)

$$ArH + HO (or HO_2) \rightarrow Ar' + H_2O (or H_2O_2)$$
 (63)

$$Ar^{\bullet} + HPA-2 + H^{+} \rightarrow Ar^{+} + H(HPA-2)$$
 (64)

$$Ar^+ + AcOH \text{ (or } H_2O) \rightarrow ArOAc + H^+ \text{ (or ArOH)}$$
(65)

The molybdovanadium isopoly acids $H_2 V_{12}$ - $M_0 Q_{31}$ (x = 0-4) catalyze the oxidation of 1,2.4-trimethylbenzene to trimethylbenzoquinone by peracetic acid in acetic acid solution (20 °C, 4 h) with a 12–31% selectivity at 15–22% trimethylbenzene conversion.²⁰⁰

As shown by Shimizu et al., ²⁰⁷ the Keggin heteropoly acids catalyze the oxidation of 2,35 and 2,36 trimethylphenol (TMP) to 2,35 trimethyl-1,4 benzoquinone (TMBQ) by hydrogen peroxide in acetic acid solution in 65–78% selectivity at 94–100% TMP conversion. The mechanism proposed involves the HPA-catalyzed hydroxylation of the aromatic ring to form 2,35 trimethylhydroquinone, followed by its fast exidation to TMBQ. In this reaction, HPAs apparently behave as Brönsted acid catalysts, catalyzing the formation of peracetic acid, which is probably the true hydroxylating species. ²⁰⁷ vic Dids were oxidized with 30% aqueous H₂O₂ in the presence of HPA to yield carboxylic acid. ²⁰⁸

Tungsten POMs have been studied as catalysts for the oxidation of benzene to phenol with 30% aqueous H2O2 at 25 °C by Nomiya et al.200 Keggin anions. PW₁₀V₂ and PW₀V₃, showed 92-98% selectivity to phenol (based on benzene) at <8% benzene conversion. The activity of PW9V3 was initially high, but decreased after 48 h due to decomposition of the Keggin structure. The PW10V2 anion remained intact and maintained its activity even after 576 h. Kuznetsova et al. 270,271 reported that the Fe3+-substituted POM. PW11O30Fe4-, catalyzes the oxidation of benzene to phenol by H2O2 in CH3CN solution at 70 °C, with the H₂O₂ decomposition being the main reaction. A mechanism, including the oxidation of C₆H₆ by HO radicals formed via the H2O2 decomposition, is suggested. Pd(II) and Pt(II) complexes of PW11O307 catalyze the cooxidative hydroxylation of benzene to phenol by a gas mixture of O2 and H2 in a two-phase system at 10-40 °C.272 Liquid-phase oxidation of benzene to phenol by O2 (10 atm, 25 °C) in the presence of Fe2+ + PW12 has been reported. 273 This reaction is likely to be a free radical cooxidation of a Fe2+-POM and benzene by O₂. The benzene-tophenol oxidation by O2 catalyzed by the Pd(II) + HPA-n redox system has been reported to achieve a 70% selectivity to phenol at 15% benzene conversion and 800 Pd(II) turnovers (130 °C, 60 atm O2, in AcOH-H2O).274

POM-catalyzed oxidation of sulfur compounds with H_2O_2 may be promising for desulfurization of oils. Thus the oxidation of dibenzothiophene with H_2O_2 using PW as catalyst and $(O_2H_1\gamma_0)_n$ NBr as phase transfer agent in a two-phase water-cluene system yields nearly 100% of dibenzothiophene sulfone. Treatment of gas oils with this method shows that all the sulfur compounds present are oxidized by this catalyst system. Oxidized products can be separated from oil by adsorption on silica gel. ²³⁰

IV. Conclusion

Catalysis with heteropoly acids and related polyoxometalate systems is a field of growing importance. Several industrial processes based on HPA catalysis have been developed and commercialized. More may be launched in the years to come. The selected examples reviewed show the broad scope of potentially promising applications of HPAs as acid and redox catalysts in low-temperature liquid-phase organic reactions. Due to their unique physicochemical properties, HPAs can be profitably used in homogeneous, biphasic, or heterogeneous systems, providing a broad operational choice. In many cases HPAs provide higher activities and selectivities and allow for cleaner processing compared to conventional catalysts. The high effectiveness of HPAs as acid catalysts is primarily due to their strong Brönsted acidity, greatly exceeding that of ordinary mineral acids and solid acid catalysts. Such important HPA properties as the ability of polyanions to stabilize organic intermediates, "pseudoliquid phase" and lack of side reactions like sulfonation, etc., also contribute to enhancing the catalytic activity and reaction selectivity. In liquid-phase oxidation, polyoxometalates can be applied either as stoichiometric oxidants or as catalysts in conjunction with such environmentally friendly oxidants as O2 and H2O2. The use of a variety of multicomponent redox systems based on polyoxometalates greatly extends the scope of possible oxidations. However, for these potentially promising reactions to be used in practice, complete recovery and recycling of HPA catalysts will be required. Detailed knowledge of mechanisms of catalysis by polyoxometalates is needed for the catalyst design and scale up.

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